

Dr. G. A. M. Rose
from his friend

Jos. A. Smith

Sept. 3. 1877.

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A

SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS
ON
STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF A
NEW METHOD OF TREATMENT,

SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED IN CASES OF THE MOST OBSTINATE AND
AGGRAVATED FORM OF THAT DISEASE.

BY
RICHARD ANTHONY STAFFORD,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AND LATELY HOUSE-
SURGEON TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

SECOND EDITION,
WITH ADDITIONAL CASES, AND A PLATE.

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TO

JOHN ABERNETHY, Esq. F.R.S.

LATE SURGEON TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,

&c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is unnecessary, and it might even appear presumptuous in me to speak of your talents, of the new and powerful light which your original investigations have introduced into important departments of pathology and therapeutics, and of the impulse which your example has given to the cultivation of surgical science. I dedicate this little work to you, not to discharge, but to acknowledge, a debt of private obligation. The precepts which I learned from your Lectures, and the invaluable

opportunities which I enjoyed, as House-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under your nomination and direction, of seeing those precepts practically illustrated, inspired me with a love of the profession, while they disclosed, in the most interesting manner, its extent and resources. For these great advantages, for numerous personal favors, and for an uninterrupted series of friendship and kindness, accept, my Dear Sir, the grateful thanks, the affectionate regards, and the best wishes, of

Your obliged and obedient Servant,

R. A. STAFFORD.

12, SACKVILLE-STREET,
March 26th, 1829.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the following work I have not attempted to enter into the minute details of the disease. This would have far exceeded the limits of my pages; and, at the same time, so much has already been written on Strictures of the Urethra, that it would have been merely a work of supererogation. My chief object has been to introduce to the notice of the Profession a new method of treating the more obstinate and aggravated forms of this complaint,—a department in surgery which has hitherto been very defective; and to make a few remarks upon its most important points. I think it proper to state, that most of the Cases

related at the end of this Treatise occurred in Hospitals and Public Charities ; and I beg here to thank the Surgeons of those Institutions for the opportunities they have afforded me of employing the Lancetted Stilettes, from which so much benefit has been derived.

12, SACKVILLE-STREET,
March 26th, 1829.

Dedication
OF THE
SECOND EDITION.

TO
JEREMIAH GLADWIN CLOVES, Esq.
M.D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

The great interest you have taken in the success of my work, and the approbation you have so kindly and so frequently expressed of the plan I have adopted for the relief of Permanent Strictures of the Urethra, as well as the private friendship with which you have honoured me, point you out as the most proper person to whom I should dedicate the Second Edi-

tion of my Observations on that subject. Be assured I estimate properly your favourable opinion, and feel most highly gratified that the treatment which I have employed for this formidable disease has engaged the attention, and obtained the approval, of a man whose talents are undisputed, and the delicacy of whose state of health alone prevents him enjoying that high eminence in his profession to which he is so justly entitled.—With sincere respect and esteem, believe me to be,

My Dear Sir,

Your Faithful and

Obedient Servant,

R. A. STAFFORD.

12, SACKVILLE-STREET,
March 28th, 1829. }

PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

IN offering these additional Cases, I think it right to call the attention of the profession to the safety and the superiority of the treatment, as well as to the completeness of the cure, effected by the use of the Lancetted Stilette. The novelty, and, as I am willing to confess, the boldness of this method of treating permanent Strictures, can only be justified by Cases in proof of these assertions. I am, therefore, most anxious that every case in which I have operated should be

clearly and simply submitted to my professional brethren.

With regard to the safety of the operation,—a subject on which I am aware there exists much prejudice and doubt, even among some of the most eminent and liberal surgeons, I can only say, that I have operated more than twenty times, without the slightest dangerous symptom occurring at the time, or afterwards ;—that I have divided strictures in the urethra in almost every part of its course, at distances of one, three, four, five, and six inches from the orifice, at the point immediately behind the bulb, and throughout the whole membranous portion ;—that some of these strictures have been half an inch, others an inch, and, in one case, two inches in length ; that I operated at one time on four strictures in the same urethra, varying from one-fourth of an inch to above an

inch in extent; and that in no instance was there a symptom to occasion the slightest alarm. The small quantity of blood lost from the operation was surprising, only in one case amounting to a table-spoonful, and usually not exceeding a few drops, or a tea-spoonful. This fact is so extraordinary, that, unless there had been repeated proofs, it would hardly be credited. The inflammation which has occurred has never been very great; and, when it has taken place, I am much inclined to attribute it to the irritation excited by the catheter having been left in the bladder. I am the more confirmed in this opinion from the fact, that in the only case in which I omitted its introduction, no sensible inflammation followed.

The superiority of the division by the lancetted stilettos over the only plan of treatment which can be brought in com-

petition with it—that by the caustic—is evident from the following circumstances. The pain is much less. This was admitted by every patient who had experienced both plans of treatment. In truth it is so little as, by their own confession, to be not worth mentioning. As a proof of this, all my patients stood during the operation, which did not usually occupy a longer time than a period varying from one to two minutes. The bleeding is not so great as what often attends the passage of a common bougie, consequently very much less than that after the application of caustic, in which the loss of half a pint, or a pint of blood, is no uncommon occurrence. The formation of a false passage, which, in the most experienced hands, will inevitably sometimes occur from the use of caustic bougies, has never resulted in any case where I have employed the instruments. The last, and perhaps principal proof of

superiority, however, of this plan of treatment, is the shortness of time occupied, and the rapidity of the cure. The length of time necessary for the common method, of course varies indefinitely :—three months may be stated a short period ; and it often extends to one or two years, with a great chance of the recurrence of the disease in a more aggravated form. On the contrary, the longest time which it has been found necessary to pass a bougie after dividing the stricture with the lancetted stilette, has never exceeded six weeks ; and in those cases it was passed merely to satisfy myself and the patient of the non-existence of the disease. Usually a large-sized bougie has been introduced almost immediately after the operation ; and the cases have not required attendance more than three weeks or a month.

A perusal of the cases will be a sufficient

proof that the cures were completed. I have since had an opportunity of examining the urethra after an interval of one or two years ; and I have been able to pass a large sized catheter without difficulty, and the patients have made water in a perfectly natural manner. Lastly, in evidence of the completeness of the cure, I have a preparation of the urethra of a patient. His stricture, which was one of twenty-three years standing, and more than an inch in extent, was situated at the bulb, and in the membranous portion. The operation was completely successful, and he made water naturally. He lived nearly two years without any symptoms of stricture, and died, æt. 76 *, from diseased lungs, and the infirmi-

* The name of this man was John Sych, whose case is related at page 143. On his coffin his age was marked 76 ; so that he must have been more than 74 when operated on.

ties of old age. On examination, the calibre of the canal was found natural throughout ; there was no hardness round the part that had been formerly contracted, and the membrane lining it was continuous with the rest of the urethra. The only difference that could be perceived was a little redness and roughness, and the incisions made by the instrument could be traced, though not very distinctly.

It is almost unnecessary to make any remark on the cases themselves ; but still some of them so strikingly point out the advantage of the lancetted stilettos that I cannot help slightly alluding to them. The first case, for example, is one where every known remedy had been employed, (excepting division externally), without the least benefit. It may be observed, that in only one week after the division of the stricture with the lancetted stilette, a No.

8 catheter could be passed ; and that the patient has continued well ever since. The second case, also, is even more illustrative of the utility of these instruments than the first. Here the stricture had been impermeable to a bougie for eighteen years ; and yet in ten days after its use a No. 13 catheter could be passed into the bladder with ease. The case of X Y Z is well worthy of notice ; for in this instance at least two inches of the stricture, immediately adjoining the prostate gland, was divided with the lancetted stilette without a guide. The only probable chance of relief otherwise would have been by cutting through it from the perineum, an operation uncertain as to success, as painful as that for the stone, and often attended with the most distressing consequences. Each individual case proves the benefit that was derived from these instruments, for there were none of them which were not of the worst

description ; but the fourth, that of Facey, where there were four strictures, is still more remarkable. This man's urethra was so free from obstruction in five weeks that it would have been difficult to have told (although they were of an extremely indurated character, and some of considerable length) where the strictures had been situated. The strongest proof of the completeness of the cure in this case is, that he has passed through his urethra no less than six calculi, about the size of small peas, since the operation.

The importance of these facts, not only with regard to stricture of the urethra, but also with a reference to the treatment of stricture of the œsophagus and rectum, will, I trust, justify my anxiety to publish these cases ; an anxiety which has led to many errors in composition in the former

part of this work, from the haste in which it was drawn up, but which I hope to correct in a future edition.

R. A. S.

12, SACKVILLE-STREET,

March 1829.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA,

&c. &c.

CHAP. I.

*Of Spasmodic Stricture and its causes;—of the
“Mixed Case,” or Inflammatory Stricture;—of
Permanent Stricture and its causes;—and of
Excrescences.*

It is proposed, in the present Treatise, to make a few observations upon Strictures of the Urethra generally. But having invented certain instruments, which I have found effectual in relieving the most obstinate and distressing forms of Permanent

Stricture, it is to that class I am more particularly anxious to direct the attention of the profession. The unyielding nature of this complaint, the inefficacy of the usual modes of treatment, and the intense suffering, as well as the extreme danger of the patient, will, I trust, be deemed a sufficient apology for not losing time in submitting the result of my experience to the public.

Strictures of the urethra have been divided by Mr. Hunter into three different classes,—the Permanent, the “Mixed case,” and the true Spasmodic. I shall first make some remarks on spasmodic strictures, as being the most simple. This form of stricture arises from the whole, or part of the canal of the urethra, being so highly irritable that the slightest stimulus will cause it to contract, and occasion the stream of urine to be suddenly obstructed. The disposition

to spasm exists according to the constitutional excitability of the patient, or to the peculiar state of the canal; and it usually occurs in that portion of the urethra which, under natural circumstances, is the most irritable. Spasmodic strictures are very constantly the result of faulty digestion; and this is explained from the morbid irritability of the stomach extending its influence and sympathies to all other structures. Hence I have known a spasmodic stricture follow from eating of high-seasoned dishes and indigestible food, such as pastry, &c.; or from drinking subacid liquors, such as champaign, cider, &c.; and the proof that the spasm, in these cases, depends solely upon this cause, is shewn from the fact, that if the irritating substance be carried off, or the acid neutralized, the spasmodic state of the urethra ceases. In some persons, the mere acrimony of the urine will bring on this affection. Faulty

digestion, and many other causes, may produce this acrimony ; and there are few of us who do not, at different times, experience changes in the secretion of this fluid. It at one time shall be limpid and unirritating, and at another so heated as to cause a burning sensation as it makes its exit. This irritating quality arises partly from the salts of the urine being in greater quantity, and partly from there being less fluid to hold them in solution. If these two causes are combined, namely, the predisposition from increased general irritability of the system, and a concentrated state of the urine, we cannot be surprised if the urethra be excited to inordinate contraction, and the patient suffer from spasmodic stricture. Besides this stimulating condition of the urine, where the general irritability exists, any other local cause will occasion stricture. Hence a bougie may become this cause, and we find at one

time it will pass freely, while at another it will be arrested. The force of the contraction will also vary : in some cases a steady and continued pressure for a short time will overcome the spasm ; in others, the stricture will resist it altogether, although the force employed to pass the bougie shall have been sufficient to contort it.

Much discussion has arisen as to the manner in which this contraction in the urethra is produced ; and it has been argued by some, that it never takes place in a situation anterior to that part of the urethra which is not surrounded by the accelerator urinæ, or ejaculator seminis, the sphincter vesicæ, the compressor prostatæ, and the levator ani muscles, and that these alone are the cause of the contraction. By others, spasmodic stricture is asserted to occur in the other parts of

the canal, in muscular fibres which they have supposed encircle the urethra throughout its whole length. From the latest examination of its structure, made by Mr. Baüer with the microscope, under the direction of Sir Everard Home, the latter gentleman infers that * “the urethra, along its whole extent, being made up of two parts, an internal membrane, and an external muscular covering,” and that the muscular covering, “being made up of fasciculi of very short fibres, which appear to be interwoven together, and connected by their origins and insertions with one another,” the disposition to spasm exists in these. It is not necessary, however, for my present purpose, to inquire into the merits of these several opinions. I would only observe, as it appears to me, that the texture of the urethra is so very minute

* Home on Stricture, vol. iii. p. 26—28.

that it would be difficult to form any accurate opinion of its real structure, and consequently of the causes of spasm in this canal. It is sufficient to know that it possesses a contractile tendency to an extreme degree ; and, as far as my own experience goes, I should conceive that the whole of the urethra may be affected by spasm, but that it is more active at that part of it where it is surrounded by the muscles necessary to the performance of its natural functions.

The “Mixed Case,” according to the explanation given of it by Mr. Hunter, that it is *“ composed of a permanent stricture and a spasm,” includes all those strictures where inflammation is present without an organic change having taken place, and all those, also, where the part has only

* Hunter on Venereal Disease, p. 111.

undergone a slight alteration of structure. It is obvious that the term "mixed case," if it be taken literally, gives a very vague idea of this class of the complaint. Perhaps the term Inflammatory Stricture would have led to less confusion, as indicating the most usual condition of the urethra in this disease, and also leading to the mode of treatment most applicable in these cases. The "mixed case," or, as I have called it, inflammatory, may be considered as the first stage towards a permanent stricture. In inflammatory stricture the part is swollen, its vessels enlarged; and, very possibly, at the same time there may be a partial change of structure, and thus the caliber of the urethra is diminished. In strictures of this kind it is some time before the part can return to its natural state. On the contrary, in the spasmodic, the contraction of the urethra ceases at the same time with the spasm. This, then,

seems to mark their difference ; although, in practice, it is often difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

In Permanent Strictures, the contraction has become thickened and indurated, being subjected, however, to numerous variations as to the form of disease. The contracted portion may appear, as Mr. Hunter expresses it, merely * “as if the part had been surrounded by a piece of pack-thread;” it may be formed only on one side of the passage ; or it may extend from one to two inches, and even farther, along the canal. The former of these, where the part appears as if it were surrounded by a piece of packthread, is the simplest form of permanent stricture. In this variety the membrane appears to be protruded forward into the canal by the parts imme-

* Hunter on Venereal Disease, p. 113.

diateley beneath it having become enlarged and indurated from deposition of lymph, without the membrane itself having participated in the change of structure. In this description of stricture the contraction entirely encircles the urethra ; but there is another variety, where it exists only on one side of the passage ; and thus a duplicature of membrane, with a hardened base, juts forward into the canal. This sort of stricture exactly resembles the one that encircles the urethra, excepting that it occupies a portion, instead of the whole circumference of the passage ; and it seems to correspond with what M. Ducamp and the French surgeons term a “ bride *.”

* “ Elles sont parfois supportées par une base large, vasculeuse, saillante dans l’interieur du canal, évidemment formée par la membrane muqueuse, épaisseé par des inflammations répéées.”—*Ducamp, Traité des Retentions d’Urine*, p. 13.

Brides in the urethra, according to M. Ducamp, are usually supported by a large base, vascular, and jutting out in the canal, evidently formed by the mucous membrane, thickened from repeated inflammations. This description seems to answer to those contractions which take place on the side of the canal ; and it appears to me that they are formed in the same manner as the circular stricture ; but the parts around become enlarged, and the membrane is pushed, as it were, before it.

The contractions, which occupy a considerable extent of the urethra, are generally extremely irregular ; and their structure approaches to that of cartilage, being indurated and tough. In these cases, which are usually of long standing, the membrane likewise partakes of the change : it is firmer and thicker than natural ; and should the diseased part be so situated that it can

be pressed between the fingers, it feels as if a piece of whipcord or catgut were placed in the urethra, perfectly unyielding to the pressure. The passage, at the thickened portion, is so much obstructed, that it will scarcely admit through it the slenderest bougie. The urine can only be filtrated through it in so small a quantity, that it flows from the penis drop by drop, or in a stream not larger than a hair; and the canal, at the part, is so unequally thickened that it is rendered tortuous.

Different opinions have been entertained as to the manner in which a permanent stricture is formed. Sir Everard Home seems to think that *“a permanent stricture is that contraction of the canal which takes place in consequence of coagulable lymph being exuded between the fasciculi of mus-

* Home on Strictures, vol. iii. p. 31.

cular fibres," which have been before alluded to, "and upon the internal membrane, in different quantities, according to circumstances, and in the same proportion diminishing the passage for the urine at that part, and completely closing it," apparently without any reference to the membrane itself undergoing a modification of structure. The opinion, also, that the parts surrounding protrude it forward, without the membrane partaking of the disease, is entertained by many others ; and it certainly has this appearance when the alteration is in the first stage. In recent cases, it is probable that the alteration of structure in the membrane is so slight that it cannot be perceived : in very protracted cases, however, it undoubtedly does undergo a change : it is thickened, and of a harder structure than natural ; and to prove this, I have only to refer my readers to many of the preparations in the

College of Surgeons. In some of these cases, it may be observed that the membrane lining the urethra is much thicker than it ought to be, and that its natural character is quite altered: indeed, I cannot conceive, when the parts are so intimately connected as the membrane and the part it covers, how the one can be affected without the participation of the other. Mr. C. Bell, in his excellent work, dwells particularly on the long and callous stricture. He conceives * “that the contractions of the urethra, which extend to a considerable length along the canal, are produced by more severe attacks of inflammation than those which produce common strictures;” and that “this sort of callosity differs from the more common strictures in this—that, in consequence of the spongy body which surrounds the canal of

* Letters on Urethra, pp. 19 & 20.

the urethra often partaking of the effects of inflammation, the cells are obliterated; and what was loose, spongy, and dilatable, has become condensed and rigid." So far as the alteration of structure is concerned, I agree in this opinion; but, from the mode in which parts in general become condensed, I am inclined to think that the inflammation, though it extends to a greater length along the tube of the urethra, is not severe, but of a very chronic description; otherwise ulceration or suppuration must necessarily occur. It appears to me, that permanent contractions of the urethra are produced in the same manner as permanent contractions of other mucous canals—the œsophagus, the intestines, &c. (with the exception of schirrous contractions); that a continued chronic inflammation having existed for a considerable time in the part, its vessels are enlarged, and lymph is very gradually deposited in its intersti-

tial structure. This slowly becomes organized and condensed ; and, by its increase, the canal, in progress of time, is entirely blocked up. The membrane, therefore, and the part immediately surrounding it, are rendered more and more indurated, in proportion to the length of its continuance, till it even assumes a hardness belonging rather to cartilage than any other structure.

The causes that may be assigned for the urethra being brought into a state favourable for the production of permanent stricture, are numerous. Whatever will give rise to inflammation of any particular portion of it, whether it has a specific, or whether a spontaneous origin, will equally tend to cause an alteration of structure at the affected part. Thus, whether it be from gonorrhœa, or whether from a blow externally upon the perineum, its effects are the

same. Gonorrhœa, however, from the frequency of its occurrence, is the most common foundation of a permanent stricture ; because, being of an inflammatory character, it has a tendency to alter the structure of the canal ; for, although it appears to be entirely confined to the membrane, yet when we consider the intimate connexion subsisting between that and the part it covers, we may reasonably conclude that both are affected by the inflammation. When the first stage has subsided, it is probable that gonorrhœa leaves behind it a chronic form of inflammation, which is peculiarly favourable to that deposition of lymph and thickening of the parts which is the cause of the canal being afterwards permanently narrowed. This seems to be exemplified by the circumstances attending gleet, for it frequently happens that when this discharge has continued for a considerable time, it is kept up in consequence

of the formation of a stricture. During the time I was house-surgeon to St. Bartholomew's hospital, I had frequent opportunities of examining patients who were suffering from a gleet of one or two years standing, and all the remedies used had been ineffectual. When a bougie was passed, a stricture was usually discovered in some part of the canal.—Another cause of the formation of permanent stricture is the employment of too powerful astringent injections in the cure of gonorrhœa. These, no doubt, will stop the discharge, but they induce at the same time a chronic inflammation in some part of the urethra, which at length terminates in a permanent contraction.

Permanent strictures may also be brought on from external violence upon the perineum, and these cases are generally of the severest description, as not only is the

part immediately surrounding the canal injured, but also the whole of the part between that and the perineum. Sailors, from their liability to fall from the rigging, frequently meet with accidents, which terminate in the aggravated form of this disease.—A stone in the bladder, or lodged in the urethra, will bring on a chronic inflammation, which will also give rise to it.—Passing sand, and the too frequent indulgence in venereal pleasures, will have the same effect.—Those also who are of a sedentary habit are often the subjects of this complaint. It is probable that from the constant position of sitting, a determination of blood to the perineum may be brought on, or perhaps the urethra may be irritated from the continual pressure of the seat.—Those who have diseases of the rectum are very much disposed to strictures, and we often see it in combination with a very costive habit of body—with piles, and

with fistula. The intimate vascular connexion of the urethra with the rectum is a very probable cause of this sympathy. Other particular causes, no doubt, could be adduced, which would account for the formation of strictures in the urethra: it is useless, however, to seek for them, for inflammation being the groundwork of this disease; whatever will give rise to it in the urethra, will also give rise to a permanent contraction of that canal.

There are other diseases of the urethra besides its mere contraction. Mr. C. Bell mentions a description of case, where it is narrowed, and attended with a wasting of the spongy body surrounding it at the same time. He says*, "I have found, on dissection, from two or three inches of the canal, much diminished in capacity, and rigid;

* Letters on the Urethra, p. 22.

and all around this part of the urethra, the spongy substance obliterated." Such a case exactly as this I acknowledge I have never met with, but I have seen one where the whole canal was in a slight degree narrowed, and certainly, from the dense and rigid state of the spongy body surrounding, it appeared as if it had been obliterated. I have no doubt, however, that this thickening and hardened state of it was produced from continued chronic inflammation.

The urethra is said to be occasionally obstructed by a kind of excrescence which Mr. Hunter termed Caruncle. The caruncle is a disease of a very rare occurrence, although the ancients, who no doubt mistook the common indurated contractions for it, considered it to be very common. There is only one specimen of it in the whole of that splendid collection of dis-

eases of the urethra in the College of Surgeons, and this being accompanied by an irregular thickening of the canal, makes it difficult to ascertain its real character. Almost all authors, however, make mention of it; and, from their account, it seems to be the same description of growth as the polypus from the mucous membrane of the nose, or the uterus. The existence of an excrescence of this nature from the urethra may be doubted. If, however, we may be permitted to reason from analogy, by comparing the diseases of the human urethra with that of other animals, its presence may be uncontestedly proved by a reference to the corresponding organ of the ox. There is a preparation in the College of Surgeons, where the true polypus is growing from the urinary passage of this animal. It arises by a pedicle from the mucous membrane, having a broad and rounded extremity ; being, in fact, an ex-

act resemblance of the uterine polypus; and for which, if examined in a state of separation from the part to which it is attached, it might easily be mistaken.

Another species of excrescence occasionally exists in the urethra of a fungoid growth. This also is of rare occurrence, and the only instance I have seen of it is in a preparation in the Museum of St. Bartholomew's. In this case the same kind of excrescence is attached to the mucous membrane of the bladder, which is not unfrequently affected by it. In one case, also, which has fallen under my observation, a kind of warty excrescence has been present in the urethra.

Having thus briefly enumerated the causes of permanent stricture, and those forms of disease to which the urethra is most liable, with exception of some of the

morbid changes in consequence, and the result of the obstruction, which will be better discussed hereafter, I proceed to the most usual situations of permanent stricture, their symptoms, and their consequences.

CHAP. II.

*Of the Situation of Stricture;—its Symptoms—
and the Morbid Changes in consequence.*

STRICTURES have been known to be formed in every part of the urethra, excepting in that portion of it which is surrounded by the prostate gland. Their most usual situation, however, appears to be where the canal is narrowest. Thus they are most frequently met with at the entrance into the membranous portion, immediately behind the bulb, in the membranous portion itself, and about four inches and a half from the orifice. These, according to measurement, are the most confined parts of the urethra, and it is probable that they are more liable to become strictured on account of their being ex-

posed to the stream of urine, from their pro-tusion into the canal. In the same manner we find strictures of the œsophagus to occur where the funnel of the pharynx narrows into the gullet; strictures of the cardia, where the passage is straightened by the muscular fibres of the diaphragm; again, at the pylorus, where the bag of the stomach contracts into the duodenum; and lastly, in the rectum, where the sigmoid flexure turns over the ridge of the sacrum. At these different points the canal receives the impulse of the contents as they pass, and if predisposed, are excited to inflammation, ending in thickening and stricture. In a similar manner in the urethra, the more contracted parts receive the momen-tum of the stream of urine, and if predis-posed, become inflamed, and when once inflamed, the same causes continue to keep up that state, and to aggravate the affected part. This I am inclined to think is the

cause why strictures more frequently occur at particular points. But there are other situations, also, where it is not uncommon for strictures to exist—the orifice itself is often contracted, and the part three inches and a half distant from it. Mr. Hunter considered that the bulb itself was most liable to the attack: I am inclined, however, to agree with Mr. Macilwain, that the affection most commonly occurs immediately behind it; and this I am led to infer, both from experience, and also from comparing together the specimens preserved in our museums.

As there are various alterations in the structure of the part during the formation of stricture, so are there various symptoms corresponding with these changes. In the first stage of stricture, the part is only affected by slight chronic inflammation; hence all that the patient feels is an irrita-

tion in the urethra, with a sense of a burning pain as the urine flows through that portion. This occasions him but small inconvenience, and he takes but little notice of it; but, as the disease advances, the stream of urine, from the diminished caliber of the canal, becomes lessened in size, its course forked, or in some manner misshapen. During this stage of the disease, the symptoms alter their character in a ratio with the state of the diseased part. If there be but little inflammation, and the stream of urine be only slightly diminished in volume, the patient is often unconscious of an obstruction in the passage; for the bladder, being obliged to increase its action from the sudden stoppage of the urine, has gained a greater degree of muscular power, and thus the urine is impelled from it with greater force, which prevents him from observing the lessened stream. If, however, on the other hand, there should

be much disposition to inflammation at the strictured portion, the least variation from the usual mode of living, the drinking much wine or spirits, the sudden change of atmosphere, the taking more exercise than ordinary, the catching a cold, or the slightest derangement of health, will immediately give rise to new symptoms. Under these circumstances there may be excessive pain,—there may be an extreme degree of spasm in the urethra, so that the urine may be at first prevented from passing, and then suddenly gush forwards ; or there may be total retention. A bougie passed at this time will very probably be arrested by spasm before it arrives at the stricture ; and when its point touches the inflamed and contracted part, the patient will immediately, and involuntarily, grasp the hand of the operator. The pain felt is extremely acute ; and when the bougie is withdrawn, it is found charged

with mucus, and very frequently blood follows its removal. Those who are afflicted with strictures are occasionally attacked by shooting pains in the perineum ; they often are subject to nocturnal emissions ;—a constant discharge, like gleet, with an occasional attack, resembling gonorrhœa, and a constant desire to make water. Sometimes they have a fluttering sensation at the strictured part : sometimes a cluster of vesicles, which have been called “*Herpes præputialis*,” followed by ulcers, will make their appearance upon the glans penis, without any apparent cause ; just as vesicles and ulcerations break out about the mouth, indicating an irritable and inflamed state of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal : and sometimes great irritation may subsist at the orifice of the urethra.

All these are common indications of

stricture ; and, in each individual, a greater or less number of them may be present. But there are other symptoms which are dependant upon the contraction. The semen is very often prevented from making its exit at the time of coition. This is extremely distressing, and arises in consequence of the urethra having the power of contraction at the time of its emission. During the performance of this function the whole canal is lessened in diameter ; and the strictured part not having entirely lost this power, becomes completely closed, and thus the semen is prevented from passing through it. When this is the case, the semen is thrown backwards towards the bladder, and makes its exit some time afterwards. At the period of coition, under these circumstances, an extreme darting pain is felt, and it has been asserted that bleeding from the urethra takes place, in consequence of the rupture of

some of the small vessels.—A swelled testicle is often concomitant with stricture. The urethra and the testicles sympathize with one another; hence, when the former is inflamed, the latter often become inflamed also. This may be observed in gonorrhœa. If the inflammation increase in this disease, and the discharge ceases, hernia humeralis very frequently arises in consequence. So likewise, in stricture of the urethra, it is a very common circumstance that swelled testicle arises from the irritation produced in this canal, the one sympathising with the other. A patient has frequent attacks of swelled testicle, being unable to assign any cause for it. He consults his surgeon, who treats him according to the usual methods: the swelling subsides for a time, but in a short period it returns again. At length, this having repeatedly occurred, a bougie is passed, and a stricture is commonly discovered to be present in the

membranous portion. Such cases as these have frequently happened in my own practice; and whenever a patient is liable to these attacks, I usually suspect a stricture is the cause of it. Those, also, who are the subjects of stricture, very frequently have attacks of rigor resembling ague. The patient is attacked by the cold, the hot, and the sweating stage, one succeeding the other, as in this complaint. It chiefly occurs when the urethra has been irritated from any particular cause: thus, if a bougie be passed, or the patient has committed any excess, it is succeeded by this affection.

When the stricture has become indurated, and the contraction very small, all the symptoms just related may be present, but they are usually more decided. In this stage of the disease the urine can only dribble away from the penis, or flow drop by

drop. The patient, at this period of the complaint, suffers great pain, and is generally at least half an hour in voiding the contents of his bladder. He is obliged to sit upon the chamber-pot, to press upon the perineum with his fingers, to grasp the penis at its extremity, or to employ some other manœuvre equally harassing. In some cases the urine flows from the patient involuntarily, and thus he is always wet and offensive to those around him ; or he has a constant desire to make water. A poor man, whom I was attending some time back, and for whom I divided the stricture with the armed catheter, assured me that he had not slept longer than two hours together for two years. He said, that hardly an hour, or even half an hour, elapsed without his feeling this inclination, and that he was obliged to rise immediately from his bed to relieve himself. His health had much declined, and he was reduced to that degree

of emaciation, that he almost resembled the *Anatomie vivant*. His bodily powers had so greatly diminished that he was obliged to give up his employment: indeed, he was in such a state of mind that he would have hailed death with delight. This case was one particularly gratifying to me; for, on the first night after the division of the stricture, he slept four hours without intermission. From this time he continued to improve; and in the short space of a month he became so fat as not to be like the same man. This case is not singular. It may be observed, that there are others where equal relief was experienced from the method employed, related at the end of this treatise.

In the last stage of stricture, various other symptoms have arisen in consequence of the obstruction. It is probable that the patient has had one or more attacks of

retention of urine, or that the urethra has ulcerated immediately behind the stricture, and thus the urine has been extravasated into the surrounding cellular substance. In the former of these two, the patient suffers great pain,—and he has a constant desire to void his urine, without the power of accomplishing it. As the bladder fills, the pain becomes excruciating ; till at length, unless the patient is relieved by the stricture yielding to the treatment adopted, or by puncturing the bladder, it mortifies, or ulcerates in some part of it, and bursts. In the latter case, when the urethra ulcerates behind the stricture, the urine being infiltrated into the surrounding cellular substance, a tumor is formed in the perineum, or in the neighbouring parts. This gradually increases in size ; and, unless it breaks, or is opened, it causes the most appalling symptoms. The patient suffers extreme pain ; a low fever, somewhat resembling

typhus, is brought on ; he becomes comatose, and in this state dies. If, however, neither of these circumstances—retention of urine, and ulceration of the urethra—have occurred, the long continuance of the obstruction will materially affect the general health. The patient becomes emaciated, nervous, and feeble ;—his spirits desert him, his intellect is impaired, and his countenance puts on an anxious and ghastly appearance. He is affected by a paralytic tremor, he is seized with a drowsiness amounting almost to stupor, and is indifferent to all around. At length, being exhausted, he sinks, and falls a victim to the disease.

The morbid changes which the urinary organs undergo from the obstruction in the canal of the urethra, are numerous. First, that part of the urethra immediately behind the stricture is dilated to a

greater or less extent, according to the length of time the stricture has been present. Secondly, the urethra is generally more or less inflamed between the stricture and the bladder; it ulcerates, and the urine makes its escape. Thirdly, the bladder becomes thickened, the prostate gland diseased, and the kidneys and ureters participate in the mischief.—The dilatation of the urethra arises in consequence of the flow of urine being arrested in its progress; and thus, from the sudden stoppage, the part immediately behind becomes distended. The urethra then inflames and ulcerates, and the urine is infiltrated into some of the neighbouring parts; and thus urinous abscesses and fistulous passages are formed. The former of these usually contain an extremely fetid, urinous, sloughy matter; and through the latter the water makes its exit; and they usually lead immediately from the urethra to the perineum; but they

sometimes terminate on the side of the rectum, anterior to the scrotum, at the scrotum itself; and, in some few instances, I have known a fistulous passage to extend from the urinary passage to the back part of the thigh. By these fistulous passages the urine, at the time of micturition, makes its escape, instead of through its natural channel; and, when they have continued for a long time, their sides become hardened; and, in some instances, they are lined by a kind of membrane. Specimens of this description are to be seen in the College of Surgeons. In one case there are two fistulous passages, which resemble regular mucous canals, being lined by a membrane analogous to the mucous tissue.—It is a curious fact, that if a false passage be made, leading from one part of the urethra to another, and the urine passes through this new channel, it is also found to be lined by a

membrane, or what looks like a membrane, and it has the appearance of a naturally-formed canal. This I have seen in one or two instances ; and my friend, Mr. Lawrence, mentioned to me a case where he found, in the urethra of a gentleman who had been in the habit of having bougies passed, a new canal formed, of between two and three inches in length, commencing anterior to the bulb, running close along the side of the natural canal, and terminating in the prostatic portion. This canal had a smooth mucous surface, very similar to the urethra itself. In a case, also, which occurred to myself, the urethra, in that portion of it which passes through the penis, was impervious ; but immediately under it there was a newly-formed passage, which, likewise, was lined by a membrane of the same description.

The morbid changes that are observed in

the bladder, when a patient dies of stricture, are, that the muscular coat is extremely thickened, and that the mucous membrane of that organ is often considerably ulcerated. The pillars of the muscular fasciculi are frequently so greatly enlarged, that the internal surface of the bladder has a columnar appearance, somewhat similar to the ventricles of the heart; and the mucous membrane is sometimes protruded between them, by which pouches are formed. The ureters are also much thickened and distended; and, in some cases, they have been enlarged to that degree that they have resembled a piece of small intestine. The pelvis of the kidney is likewise increased in size, being sometimes dilated to a great extent. The prostate gland is frequently enlarged; abscesses are occasionally found in it, with fistulous passages leading from them to the perineum or parts around, and its natural ducts are often considerably dilated.

CHAP. III.

Treatment of Spasmodic and Inflammatory Stricture.

DURING the formation of a stricture in the urethra, the state of the diseased part varies, according to the progress it has made towards that change of structure which renders it permanent; as, in the first stage, only an irritability exists, attended, when there is any exciting cause, by spasm; in the second, inflammation and spasm; in the third, an alteration of structure, accompanied with, or without inflammation and spasm; and in the last, the part has become nearly, or quite, impermeable, and of a cartilaginous texture; so the treatment of stricture will be regulated by the state of the diseased part.

If there be little or much inflammation, or that the structure of the part has become altered, means adapted to each of these several states ought to be employed. This view of the question, however, appears to have been too generally lost sight of; and the treatment, as regards the cause of the disease, too much neglected. Stricture of the urethra has been, and still is, considered by many surgeons (at least if we are to judge by their practice) as a mere mechanical obstruction, without the least reference to it as a disease produced by inflammation. If, therefore, a bougie can be passed through the stricture, of whatever character it may be, it is sufficient,—no farther treatment is considered necessary. By taking a review, however, of the mode by which a stricture is formed, and of the nature of the disease, we shall find that other means can be employed,—such as local blood-letting, soothing the

diseased parts, and attention to the general health.

I shall begin to speak of the treatment of stricture in its first stages ; that is, while it may be deemed spasmotic and inflammatory ; and afterwards I shall devote a chapter to those which have undergone a change of structure.

From what has been considered as the predisposing and local causes of spasmotic stricture, and from its existing only during the continuance of those causes, the cure will obviously depend upon, and be accomplished by, their removal. If the spasmotic stricture depend upon the extreme irritability of the urethra, occasioned by a morbid irritability of the stomach, and produced by some irritating cause present in that organ, it will be our care to remove such offending matter, or neutralize its

effects ; or we may directly allay the tendency to spasm by opium, camphor, and other anti-spasmodics ; or by soothing the affected part with fomentations, &c. We must, however, bear in mind in this case, that we are only overcoming the tendency to spasm for a time, and not removing the cause. The cure must be effected by diminishing the general irritability. If it arise from a local cause, as the urine being of too stimulating a quality, the tendency to stricture will be diminished by diluting largely with mucilaginous drinks. The same end is also attained by neutralizing the urinary salts with alkalies. Attention, likewise, should be paid to the food eaten, taking care that it is not of a stimulating or irritating nature ; and such medicines should be administered as will assist the digestive powers, and regulate the excretions. Whenever the voiding of the urine is attended by much pain, together with spasm,

and a diminution of the size of the stream of urine at the same time, we may be assured that one or other part of the canal is more or less inflamed. Under these circumstances it is adviseable that leeches be applied to the perineum, that the bowels be freely evacuated, and that the patient be placed in the warm bath, or desired, according as the symptoms may require, constantly to foment the perineum. As long as these symptoms continue, the above remedies should be repeated at least twice in the week, and if they are urgent, even oftener. When the pain and irritation of the urethra have subsided, then, and not till then, a bougie may be passed to ascertain the state of the canal. If the bougie passes readily through the contraction, without spasm or pain, we may be certain that the inflammation is nearly subdued : if, however, on the contrary, it is entirely resisted by spasm, or its intro-

duction is attended by great pain, but little abatement of it can have taken place. In the latter case leeches must be again applied to the perineum, the warm bath and fomentations continued, and the bowels kept freely open. In the former it may be as well to apply leeches also, after the introduction of the bougie ; but this must be regulated by the symptoms during its passage.

In all difficult cases of stricture it is adviseable to prepare for passing the bougie by the application of leeches, and fomenting the perineum immediately before its introduction. By pursuing this method, the vessels of the part are emptied, the inflammation reduced, and the urethra is rendered less irritable. This plan of treatment I have frequently adopted ; and I have succeeded in many cases where I am convinced I otherwise could not have

passed it. When, also, the bougie has been resisted by spasm, or that there has been much pain and irritation during its passage, I have directed that leeches be applied immediately afterwards, with a view of preventing the inflammation which might otherwise have arisen.

Opiates, both administered internally, and used as a suppository, are very beneficial in allaying pain and irritation of the urethra. The best method of employing them internally is, by keeping the patient under their influence; that is, by giving small and repeated doses at stated intervals. The extract conii, and the extract hyosciami, appear to answer this purpose better than any narcotic, inasmuch as they do not produce the same feverish disturbance in the system as is occasioned by opium, nor give rise to the same disposition to constipation. I generally combine

them with the dried subcarbonate of soda, beginning with five-grain doses every six hours, and increasing the dose according to the effect produced. When a suppository is necessary, the pil. sapon. c. opio is perhaps as good as any that can be employed. From twenty to forty grains, or even more of this, as the symptoms require, may be placed in the rectum, when extreme pain and irritation are felt, or every night at bed-time. An enema, also, containing tinct. opii in the same proportion, is another mode of employing it ; and this, in severe cases, may be better than the other, as it acts also as a fomentation to that part of the urethra which is in contact with the rectum, and empties the contents of the bowel at the same time.

The diet is another very important consideration in the treatment of inflammatory stricture. This should be of the mildest

description ; for any thing taken into the stomach of an irritating nature, would naturally affect the secretion of the kidney, and also produce a disposition to inflammation generally. The urethra, therefore, being already diseased and inflamed, both these causes would tend to increase it. This is exemplified by a patient with stricture drinking spirits or wine too plentifully ;—the part immediately becomes inflamed, and sometimes to that degree that retention of urine is the consequence. The diet should be regulated by the state of the stricture. If the patient is suffering great pain, irritation, or difficulty in voiding his urine, it ought to consist of vegetables, puddings, maccaroni, &c. : if, however, these symptoms are absent, he may take a proper proportion of meat, with vegetables, never overloading the stomach, and always avoiding spirits and fermented liquors. Added to these precautions in diet, the bowels should

be regulated by mild aperients, and an alterative pill (pil. hyd. sub. c. gr. v.) taken on the alternate nights.—In all cases of stricture, also, in whatever stage of the disease, a tepid fomentation applied to the perineum will be found extremely soothing and beneficial in allaying the pain and irritation of the canal; and it ought always to be made use of three or four times in the day.

Nothing, reasoning *à priori*, can appear more injudicious than passing a bougie through an inflamed and irritable canal. It would incline one to believe, instead of its producing any good effect, that it would increase the inflammation and irritability of the urethra. This, however, is not the case, at least when the inflammation is not very severe: on the contrary, when there is not a *high* degree of it, it is beneficial. First, it enlarges the part; and thus, there

being less obstruction, the urine passing through it does not cause so much irritation ; and secondly, the bougie, touching the surface of the tender membrane, accustoms the part to the stimulus of a foreign body, and thus renders it less irritable. It is not at all an uncommon occurrence, that, on the first introduction of a bougie, the patient feels as if a hot iron were passing through the urethra ; and he expresses the sensation exactly in such terms : on the second introduction he has less sensibility in the canal, on the third still less, and at length none at all. It is remarkable, and hardly to be accounted for, but the very touching the strictured portion, without passing the bougie through it, will sometimes give relief. This I have observed in many cases, and in some few instances where retention of urine has existed.—A patient who was under my care during the period I was house-surgeon

at St. Bartholomew's, used to be frequently attacked with retention of urine from stricture ; the moment the catheter touched the contracted portion the spasm ceased, and the urine began to flow. In a case which Mr. C. Bell mentions, there was a false passage on the side of the stricture, and even passing a bougie into this false passage relieved the patient.

A question may be asked, how often ought a bougie to be passed ? In answering this, some would say, once in the week, others twice, and others, on the alternate days. The passage of the bougie should, however, be regulated by the state of the diseased part. If there is a *high* degree of inflammation, the bougie ought not to be passed at all until this is reduced. If it is not very violent, once in the week will be sufficient ; and if it is but slight, it may be done twice to advantage ; but it never

should be introduced oftener. At first it would be better to employ the common wax or gum-elastic bougie, as neither of these is likely to injure the urethra. Afterwards, however, I prefer the metallic bougie, or rather the silver catheter, having observed that the cure of stricture by these instruments is more permanent: they resist spasm, and you have more command over them. At the same time, having a polished surface, they pass more easily ; and if a catheter be used, you know when you have entered the bladder, from the flow of urine through it.

Retention of urine is a very common consequence of stricture ; and, in this case, there are different opinions as to the treatment that ought to be pursued. Some advise that the catheter be not passed until the inflammation is reduced, while others recommend that its introduction be at-

tempted. In very urgent cases, and where the patient is suffering extreme pain from the distention of the bladder, I am inclined to favour the latter. It is some time before the inflammation and spasm of the stricture can be reduced; and during this period the patient is suffering increased pain, and the bladder is becoming larger and larger. If, under such circumstances, a catheter could be by chance (for in such a case it can be considered as no other) passed, the advantages gained would be so great that it would more than counterbalance the increased irritation that might ensue from its introduction. The means for the reduction of the inflammation might at the same time be pursued, so that no time would be lost, and the catheter also be used with so little force, that trifling injury could be done to the inflamed part. In more moderate attacks of retention of urine, I should prefer, however, that the inflammation be, if pos-

sible, reduced before there is any attempt made to permeate the stricture. It is almost unnecessary to enumerate the methods by which this is accomplished: I will, however, briefly state them.

The patient should be bled to syncope; he should be placed in the warm bath, leeches should be applied to the perineum, a powerful opiate enema injected into the rectum, tartarised antimony given so as to produce nausea; and he should constantly foment the perineum. These means should be repeated, if necessary; and if they fail, an attempt should be made to introduce the catheter. When this instrument cannot be passed, the distressing alternative of puncturing the bladder must be had recourse to, or the lancetted stillette used, as will presently be described. I have observed, in many cases of retention of urine, that the opiate injection, administered im-

mediately after the patient is taken out of the bath, has been attended with good effect. It is probable that the warm fluid, being immediately in contact with the posterior surface of the bladder, and that part of the urethra adjoining the rectum, soothes those parts, as well as the muscles around the canal, diminishing the tendency to spasm, and completing the relaxing effect of the bath ; while, at the same time, the opiate acts as an anti-spasmodic. The muriated tincture of iron, given in doses of twenty to thirty drops every ten minutes, or quarter of an hour, will, in some cases, relieve the spasm, and cause the urine to flow.

When there is a difficulty in passing an instrument, a small gum elastic and highly-varnished catheter, with the curved wire in it, may be tried. As this approaches the stricture, the wire should be partially withdrawn. By doing this, its point will

be rendered pliable, and it can be kept against the upper surface of the urethra, where generally the stricture affords less resistance. The catheter without the wire will occasionally pass better than with it, and sometimes a common small soft bougie will permeate the stricture, when it cannot be effected by any other instrument. Each may in its turn be tried, taking care, however, at the same time, not to injure the urethra, by employing them with too great a force.—If the point of the catheter or bougie be passed along the lower surface of this canal, it will not enter the stricture, and the reason of this is, as it appears to me, that the urethra having nothing to support it beneath, yields to the pressure of the bougie, and thus forms a pouch immediately anterior to the stricture in which its point lodges. This seems to explain why success attends the introduction of a bougie or catheter,

when its point is made to press upon the upper, and not, as is imagined by some, that the stricture is more perceptible on the lower surface of the passage. In some cases a catgut bougie will pass when no other can be made to permeate the stricture, and it is probable, that this is owing to its peculiar pliability, and to the resistance it affords at the same time. As the catgut bougie cannot be made to resemble the curve of the urethra without its losing its resistile power, it should be slightly bent at its point, so that it may press against the upper surface of the canal.

Before passing the bougie, it should be bent as nearly as possible to the curve of the urethra; and the penis should be elongated, to prevent folds, in which its point may lodge, being formed in the canal. On its first introduction, the bougie should be nearly as large as

the caliber of the urethra, as small ones are apt to be caught in the lacunæ as they pass, and thus we are prevented from ascertaining the exact state of the stricture. Its introduction, also, should be effected with the greatest care and gentleness ; and if, when it arrives at the stricture it is resisted by spasm, a steady and continued pressure will sometimes overcome it, but force never should be employed. When the stricture will only admit through it a very slender bougie, it is a good plan to pass a silver tube down to it first, and then to introduce the bougie through this canula. By pursuing this method the bougie does not catch in the lacunæ, and it is not softened from the warmth and moisture of the urethra.

When a stricture is in that tranquil state that it will admit through it a bougie or catheter without much pain and irritation,

the size of the dilator should be increased every or every other time it is introduced, until it arrives at No. 12, 13, or 14, according to the natural diameter of the urethra, which varies in different individuals. It should be passed, as before stated, once or twice in the week ; and when arrived to the *maximum* size, its introduction should be continued for a few weeks, to ensure the permanency of the cure : indeed, from the liability of the return of stricture, I am almost inclined to recommend, that it be passed once in three months, for a year or two afterwards. This would prevent the recurrence of the disease, and, in time, would become habitual.

The first introduction of a bougie produces, in different individuals, various effects. Sometimes the patient is immediately seized with a fainting fit, sometimes with sickness, and at other times an extreme cutting pain is felt in the urethra. In some

cases, also, the passing of the bougie almost always causes so much irritation, that when the patient is predisposed to it, an attack of rigor is the result. When we have reason to suppose that this affection is likely to occur, we should employ every means in our power to prevent it. It arises from irritation of the urethra, and therefore our chief endeavour should be to remove the cause of this irritation. This I have found to be best effected by the application of leeches to the perineum, immediately after the introduction of the bougie; by constantly fomenting the part; and by employing an opiate suppository or enema. An opiate draught may also be given with good effect. This plan of treatment I have adopted in several cases, and in one gentleman, who had given up all hopes of his stricture being cured, on account of his always being thus attacked after the passing of a bougie, these remedies completely prevented it, and he is now recovered.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Treatment of Permanent Stricture.

HAVING thus briefly treated of the cure of the simplest forms of stricture, it remains for me to speak of the last and more complicated kind,—the Permanent. We have here to contend with a modification of structure of the urethra ;—with a part irregularly thickened, and so indurated as to resemble the structure of cartilage ;—and with a narrow canal, contracted to that degree, and so extensively, that it is either quite impermeable, or it will only admit through it the smallest-sized bougie.—To effect a cure of these states of the urethra, we have to enlarge the contracted passage ;—to procure the absorption or destruction of the surrounding thickened tissue ;—and to

restore the parts to their healthy condition.

The different plans which have been adopted to permeate this description of stricture, and to restore the urethra to its healthy condition, are four in number :— First, it has been attempted to make the part ulcerate by the continued pressure of a bougie upon it. Secondly, some surgeons have endeavoured to force through the contraction with a conical sound. Thirdly, caustics have been applied to the diseased part with the view of destroying it. And, fourthly, the part has been divided from the perineum. The two former of these plans of treatment,—the endeavouring to make the part ulcerate, and the forcing through the contraction with a conical sound, are now, from the danger and uncertainty with which they are attended, totally relinquished ; and the two latter, —

the applying caustic, and the division of the stricture from the perineum, are the only means which are at present practised. These, however, are also attended with great risk. The destruction of a permanent stricture by the application of caustic, is an extremely tedious and painful process, uncertain as to its final result; and, at the same time, as will presently be shewn, symptoms frequently arise that endanger the life of the patient. The division of the stricture from the perineum is a very difficult and painful operation : it is often unsuccessful ; and also, it is so little susceptible of being reduced to fixed rules, that it can hardly become a measure of general adoption.

With regard to the treatment of stricture by caustic, we find from Sir Everard Home, and others who have written on the subject, that it is often attended by extremely

dangerous consequences. These consequences are, great pain, retention of urine, profuse haemorrhage, false passages, violent inflammation, rigors, fever, stranguary, and swellings in the perineum. That these are the symptoms which frequently occur from strictures being treated after this method is acknowledged by Sir E. Home himself, and all those who have employed it. Sir Everard expressly states*, “that the pain that is brought on by caustic lasts for some time after it is withdrawn;” that “it is sometimes not felt at the time, but that it comes on a few minutes after the caustic is removed, is very severe, and lasts for hours;” and that “the surgeon who makes the application is made conscious of it by the smaller arteries of the part beating with unusual violence; which is very distinctly felt by the finger

* Home on Stricture, Vol. I. sect. 7.

and thumb which grasp the penis." Sir E. goes on to state, that another effect of the application of the lunar caustic "is, in some particular cases, very profuse haemorrhage;" and he relates six cases of this description, in all of which it was so considerable that the patients were extremely lowered by the loss of blood; and some of them bled so profusely, that the quantity lost amounted to two or three pints. Retention of urine is often enumerated, by the same author, as following the use of caustic; and, in four cases where it occurred from its application, the bladder was punctured, in two instances of which the patients died. Lastly, not to mention the instances where constitutional symptoms, rigor, &c. arose, the formation of false passages has been admitted, by all who have written on the subject, to be a consequence to which the use of caustic is extremely liable; and the experience of

every surgeon will supply him with many examples of their occurrence being the result of this treatment. These are the principal objections to the application of caustic ; and, in addition to them, the number of times necessary to repeat its application, is another of no small importance. It may be observed, that it is not an uncommon circumstance, that a stricture is touched with it six, eight, ten, twenty, thirty, sixty, one hundred, and even more times ; and at each application one or other of the above alarming symptoms may occur. The time, also, that it takes to effect a cure when it does succeed, is usually months ; and, in many cases, it has been even years..

Another description of caustic, the potassa fusa, which, if it be applied immediately to the flesh, before it liquifies, is more powerful than lunar caustic, has been recommended by Mr. Whately. He sup-

posed the potassa fusa destroyed the diseased portion much more quickly, and effected a more permanent cure than lunar caustic. These advantages, supposing them to exist, are more than counterbalanced by the difficulty of transmitting the potassa fusa down to the stricture without liquification, and the possibility of confining its action to any determined point. In other respects it is liable to the same objections as the lunar caustic. It requires repeated applications, gives great pain; and the same symptoms, hæmorrhage, retention of urine, &c. may arise from its employment.

Having thus pointed out the difficulty and danger of dividing strictures from the perineum, and the uncertainty and alarming consequences attendant upon the treatment by caustic, I have now to propose another method of treating this

disease in its more aggravated and obstinate form.—It is the division of the diseased part within the canal of the urethra.—The advantages of this mode of treatment are, that it effects with certainty, and in a short time, what the caustic is intended to accomplish by repeated and tedious applications ; and it is free from the difficulties of the operation for the incision of the stricture (an operation little less painful than that for lithotomy) through the perineum, thereby saving the patient the inconvenience and misery of a new channel, leaving but little for nature to repair ; and at the same time allowing the urine to flow through its natural passage. For this purpose I have invented two instruments, the one to divide Permanent Strictures, while yet a small bougie or wire can be passed through them ; and the other to divide those strictures which are impermeable.

The instrument * for operating on permeable strictures (which, for sake of distinction, I have called the Double Lancetted Stilette,) consists of a round silver graduated sheath, open at both ends, of the size of No. 10 catheter, with rather a less curve, and of a Stilette, which is also hollow, and open at both ends. This stilette is furnished, at one end of it, with two oblong lancets; and at the other with a handle, resembling a button. When the instrument is complete, the stilette fits into the sheath, so that by pushing the handle, the lancets will project from the extremity of the tube, and by drawing it back they will retire into it again. When used (the mode of doing which will be presently explained), the instrument is passed over a wire down to

* *Vide* Plate and Description.

the stricture, and the lancets are thrust forward on each side of it, by which the contraction is made as large as the natural size of the urethra*. The armed stilette, intended to divide impermeable strictures, exactly resembles the one just described, excepting that, instead of the stilette being hollow it is solid, and in the place of two there is only one lancet.

Before using the instruments, the exact distance of the stricture from the extremity of the urethra should be ascertained. In the armed catheter, which is intended to divide strictures over the wire, which serves as a guide, the wire must be introduced

* This handle has hitherto been formed like a button; but I have thought it would be of advantage to have it made like two rings, large enough to admit the finger and thumb, similar to the handle of a pair of scissors.

through the stricture first. The mode of accomplishing this is, by passing the smallest possible-sized catheter, made to contain the wire, into the bladder. The wire, which is double the length of the catheter, and blunted at one end, so that it may not injure the bladder, is then pushed forward, and the catheter gradually withdrawn, by which the former is left in the canal of the urethra. The armed catheter is then passed over the wire, until its point rests against the stricture (which is known by means of the graduation), and being held securely in such position, the handle of the stilette is pressed gently and gradually. As soon as any impression is made, the lancets should be allowed to retire into their sheaths, and the blunt point of the instrument urged forward. If it do not pass on, the lancets may be again used as before. After the stricture is divided, the armed catheter should be withdrawn, and its place sup-

plied by one of elastic gum of the same size. This should remain for a day or two, to prevent the re-union of the divided parts, and to preclude the possibility of extravasation of urine ; and, on its removal, a bougie should be passed twice in the week, or as often as may be judged necessary, for some time ; and the same treatment adopted as for stricture in general. The armed stilette, intended to divide impermeable strictures, must be used precisely in the same manner as the other, of course excepting the wire, which cannot be introduced ; and the same directions for the after treatment are necessary for both.

In some of the cases in which the instrument has been employed, the division of the stricture has been followed by more or less inflammation, but seldom amounting to a great extent. Such an occurrence should be guarded against by the application of

leeches to the perineum immediately after the operation, and by a strict adherence to the antiphlogistic regimen. If the presence of the catheter that is left in the urethra cause considerable pain, it must be withdrawn; but, in this case, it is of material consequence to pass a bougie daily, lest the divided parts re-unite.

It may be objected to the use of these instruments, that there is a liability of making by them a false passage. This is prevented, in the permeable stricture, by the wire acting as a director, and limiting the incisions to the size of the natural canal, so that it is impossible to deviate from the course of the urethra. With regard to the second case, or when the stricture is not permeable, it must be admitted that, in unskilful hands, or by violent means, a false passage may be formed; but that, with common care, this is not likely to

occur, is proved by the result of not less than twelve cases of impermeable stricture, where I myself have used the armed stilette, or have seen it employed. In no case was there any false passage made. I very much question, however, if the same number of cases had been treated by caustic, whether they would have been attended by the same success. On the whole, therefore, it may be safely inferred, that although it is possible that a false passage may be made by the single lancetted stilette, yet, with common care, it may be avoided.—It might, perhaps, also be thought that considerable hæmorrhage would follow the division of the stricture by these instruments, and that they would produce much pain; but, in the cases in which it has been employed, the bleeding has been inconsiderable, and the pain trifling.

In cases where strictures have existed for ten or twenty years, and upwards, on which I have operated, it appears that the hardened structure by which the contraction was formed, became completely absorbed ; and that the urethra, at the part, was restored, apparently, to its healthy condition. In no instance, where the stricture has been divided, have I had an opportunity of examining the part ; but, if I may be allowed to reason from passing the catheter or bougie at different periods after the operation (in some of them more than a year), I may fairly come to the above conclusion. In none of these was there left the slightest hardness at the diseased part : indeed, in many of the patients, it would have been difficult to have said where the contraction had been present. It is probable that the division of the thickened and indurated substance produces ulceration of the diseased structure, at least where

the incision of the part takes place, and that in this manner it is destroyed. This I am led to infer, from having observed that, in some cases, if the stricture be only punctured, without being completely divided, that on the following day a catheter can be passed. This circumstance happened in one or two cases where Mr. Earle employed the instrument for impermeable strictures; and in these there was a slight discharge of pus from the urethra before a catheter was passed, which seems to prove this fact. This may not, however, be the only reason why the thickening and induration disappear from its division: it may be accounted for, perhaps, on another principle. It is reasonable to conclude that when a canal, which is naturally open, has become straightened at one particular point of it, that by relieving this straightened part, great irritation must necessarily be removed, consequently, the

lymph which had been deposited between the interstices of the contracted portion, and which had materially assisted to form the induration, may possibly become absorbed, and thus the part be nearly restored to its natural character. What seems more particularly to illustrate this point is, that sometimes the orifice of the urethra becomes nearly closed, and excessively indurated. In a few cases, where I have divided this description of contraction, I have found the hardness entirely to subside. The incised part has ulcerated, and secreted pus; but the dense structure all around it has gradually become softened, until it has totally disappeared. It is not only in the urethra that I have remarked that the division of an indurated structure will cause its absorption.—In one instance, where Mr. Lawrence operated for the stone, there was an extremely enlarged and hardened prostate gland (so

hard that it resembled the structure of gristle); and this, some time after the operation, became of its natural size and structure. In a case, also, where Mr. Titus Berry divided a hardened contraction of the œsophagus with the armed stilette, the part was restored to its natural character. It is almost impossible to say, for certain, by what process this is effected: it is, nevertheless, a very valuable fact, and one which is well worthy the notice of the profession.

The cases in which the armed stilette appears likely to be most beneficial, are those where the contraction is so hardened, and of so unyielding a nature, that it will not admit of being dilated at all; or where, as Mr. Hunter expresses it *, “it is seldom or ever more than a temporary cure; for,

* Hunter on Venereal Disease, p. 117.

although the passage may be dilated sufficiently for the urine to pass, yet there is always the original tendency to contraction, which generally recurs sooner or later." In these cases the division of the diseased part would be of great advantage; for, by one incision of the armed stilette, the contracted portion would be made as large as the rest of the canal; and, at the same time (at least judging from the cases where strictures of this description have been already divided by this instrument), the induration would completely disappear in the course of a month or six weeks, or even less time, and the stricture would be permanently cured. Most of the cases where Sir E. Home employed the caustic, and where the distressing symptoms before alluded to occurred, resembled the above. Surely it would be far preferable to divide the stricture at once, than to employ a remedy so tedious, uncertain, and dangerous

in its consequences. In cases of partial and total retention of urine, the armed stilette would be found particularly serviceable. It occasionally happens, that after repeated attempts to pass a very fine gum-elastic catheter in these cases, we at length succeed. How very advantageous would it be, if, under these circumstances, the contracted part was enlarged; for if the catheter should be withdrawn, it is very doubtful whether we should be ever able to repass it. Such cases as these are not uncommon; every experienced surgeon must have frequently met with them; and, during the time I was pursuing my studies at St. Bartholomew's, I recollect several. In many cases of old and indurated strictures, and where but little can be done for their relief, those afflicted with them have, upon the slightest accession of inflammation, an attack of retention of urine; and sometimes a very small catheter, at this period,

can be passed for them, and sometimes not. When the catheter can be introduced, the double-lancetted stilette would immediately, and without danger, accomplish the division of the contraction, freeing at once both the patient's and surgeon's mind of the possibility of the recurrence of retention of urine, and it would, at the same time, cure the stricture ; and when it could not be passed at the time, the inflammation might be reduced, and the contracted part be divided afterwards. In all those cases, also, where there has been extreme difficulty in passing a bougie or catheter, the double-lancetted stilette would at once relieve them.

By dividing a permanent stricture we are only enlarging a contracted canal to its natural size, and thus relieving the system of the irritation which must necessarily arise from its presence. We are, in fact, reducing

what was before performed by a complicated method, to a simple surgical operation ; and, by making one slight incision, we are accomplishing at once what could formerly be only effected by a very slow, or by a very unsafe and painful process ; setting aside, at the same time, the uncertainty and difficulties attending them. It is hardly necessary to adduce any farther argument upon this subject : there are few who will not have the candour to acknowledge, that when an individual can only void his urine by drops,—that when he has frequent attacks of retention of urine,—that when he suffers from incontinence of urine ; and that when, from the pain and irritation arising from the obstruction in the urethra, he has sleepless nights, and is reduced to an extreme degree of emaciation, that the immediate removal of the cause of these grievances is not only an object most desirable to be accom-

plished, but also “ most devoutly to be wished.”

I shall here briefly relate, from recollection, one or two cases where this instrument, if it had been invented at the time they occurred, would have been employed with great advantage.

CASE I.

A MAN was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital with retention of urine, to which he had been occasionally subject for some time. The usual means were adopted, leeches, the warm bath, &c. to relieve him: these, however, failed. A very fine catheter was tried to be introduced into the bladder; and at length, with extreme difficulty, it was passed. The urine was

drawn off, and as the patient was suffering pain from the presence of the catheter, it was withdrawn. On the following day there was a recurrence of retention of urine. The catheter was employed, and it would not pass. He was ordered leeches, and the catheter again attempted: this, after some time, passed; but, from the same cause, was withdrawn. The urine now dribbled away from the penis for a day or two, when the patient had a recurrence of retention. This was by the same means relieved: he was, however, attacked, once in two or three days, in the same manner, for some time afterwards; and, at length, from the excessive diseased state of the bladder, died.

This case affords an instance of the utility of the double-lancetted stilette. If this instrument had been employed when the catheter was first passed, it would

have saved the patient the excessive and repeated tortures of retention of urine; and it, perhaps, might have prevented the causes which ultimately terminated in his death.

CASE II.

J. P. having had a stricture for many years, it at length so completely closed up the passage, that the urethra ulcerated behind it, and the urine was extravasated into the surrounding cellular substance. An immense urinary abscess was formed, occupying the whole of the perineum, and more particularly presenting itself on the right nates, at the side of the rectum. At this part a free incision was made into it, and about a pint and a half of the most foetid, urinous, sloughy matter, escaped.

A vast cavity existed in the nates, which extended itself to the perineum. It was impossible to discover where the urine escaped from the urethra, so that it still collected in the cavity, before it passed out at the opening made. The patient had a low irritative fever upon him, resembling typhus in its last stage ; his pulse was 130 ; his tongue black and dry, feeling, when touched, quite rough and hard, and he was delirious. The urine which lodged in the cavity kept up the above symptoms ; and it was, therefore, judged necessary to pass a catheter into the bladder. After many attempts, a very small gum-elastic catheter was, with great difficulty, introduced through the stricture. This remained in the bladder for two days, and the symptoms gradually abated. The patient, however, in a half-delirious state, withdrew the catheter, and the urine lodged in the cavity as before. He became worse :

endeavours were made to introduce the catheter, but they were unsuccessful. On the following day the symptoms increased, and death appeared to be fast approaching. The introduction of the catheter was again resorted to, and after many fruitless attempts, for at least as long a time as an hour, it was at length fortunately passed into the bladder, and it was then so secured he could not withdraw it.—It is unnecessary for me to enter into further details: in about three or four months he recovered.

It may be observed in this case, the extreme difficulty there was in passing the catheter, and the mischief that resulted from the urine collecting in the cavity. The patient, no doubt, would have died if the catheter (which can be considered no other than chance,) had not been introduced the second time, and left in the

bladder. At the time this case occurred, the double-lancetted stilette was not invented; but if it had been, the stricture might have been divided at the first introduction of the catheter, when all farther danger and trouble would have been prevented.

CASE III.

AN old gentleman was affected with partial paralysis of the bladder, for which the catheter was obliged to be passed daily. In addition to this malady, he also was afflicted with a tortuous, indurated, and almost impermeable stricture, which rendered the passing of the catheter extremely difficult. For this reason, whenever there was an accession of inflammation of the part, whether it arose from his having com-

mitted an excess, or from any other cause, he had an attack of retention of urine. These attacks were generally relieved by the warm bath, leeches, &c.; but their recurrence were very frequent, and he lived in continual apprehension of them.— If in this case the stricture could have been divided, it would have rendered the passing of the catheter easy; so that although the paralysis of the bladder might have continued, yet the distressing malady, retention of urine, would have been prevented.

These cases are particularly impressed on my mind. I could, from recollection, relate many others of a similar description. This, however, would be superfluous, as there are few surgeons of experience, and more particularly hospital surgeons, who have not met with such examples.

In retention of urine, also, where the stricture is quite impermeable, it certainly must be allowed to be far better to divide it with the single-lancetted stilette, than to puncture the bladder. Before resorting to so distressing a measure, I have no hesitation in saying that this instrument ought always to be employed; for should it not succeed, the bladder can but be punctured at last. In all cases where the stricture is quite impermeable, and where it would otherwise be found necessary to divide it from the perineum, or to employ caustic (the difficulties and danger of which I have already pointed out,) this instrument might be used, as will be seen by the cases, to great advantage, and thus the necessity of both these remedies would be superseded.

I shall now proceed to the relation of the cases where these instruments have been

employed ; but, before concluding these remarks, I think it necessary to state, that since the invention of these instruments, I have been informed that some of the French and German surgeons have attempted the division of strictures within the canal of the urethra ; but by what means exactly, or with what success, I have been unable to learn.

CASE I.

GEORGE EDWARDS, ætat. twenty-five, admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital May 12th, 1826, with stricture of the urethra, under the care of Mr. Lawrence.

About five years ago he first found the stream of his urine diminished in size, from which time until the present it has gradually become smaller and smaller. He has,

for the last eight months, been incapable of voiding it in any other manner than drop by drop, during which time, also, he has had frequent attacks of retention of urine, accompanied with hernia humoralis. He suffers much pain in the region of the pubes, has frequent desire to make water, and there is a deposit of mucus in his urine. His tongue is foul, pulse quick, and his general health much impaired. When his urethra was examined, an impermeable stricture was discovered at the distance of five inches and a half from the orifice, at the glans penis.

He was ordered milk diet, and placed on a strict antiphlogistic regimen. Leeches were applied frequently to the perineum, occasional warm baths used, and the smallest-sized bougies of every description passed as far as the stricture twice in the week, with the hope of permeating it.

June 5th.—All these means having failed, the armed catheter was introduced as far as the stricture, and used as before described. Three-fourths of an inch of the stricture were divided, and, as this was the first time of using the instrument, no farther attempt was made. As it was thought bougies might tend to keep up inflammation, their use was for the present discontinued. In other respects the case was treated as before.

12th.—On the first day after the operation, he made water in a larger stream than he had done for some time past, but on the following day much worse: indeed, for a few hours he had total retention. For this reason the use of the armed catheter was nearly being abandoned ; but, as it was suggested that the man might have become worse, owing probably to the reunion of the divided surfaces of the stricture, Mr.

Lawrence gave the instrument another trial. Accordingly, on the following day its use was had recourse to again, and it was found, as suggested, that the divided portion of the stricture had closed. This, with a very little force, and without pushing out the lancet, was separated. An inch more of the urethra, with the aid of this instrument, was passed. A bougie was introduced every day, to prevent the divided part from closing ; when, on Friday the 16th, the armed catheter was again employed, and, with one slight puncture with the lancet, passed with the greatest facility into the bladder. It was then withdrawn, and a silver catheter (No. 9,) was introduced instead of it, and a pint and a half of urine drawn off. He was ordered to keep constantly in bed, and to foment the perineum.

17th.—The catheter caused so much irritation that he could not keep it in the

bladder longer than six hours. He had suffered some pain in the perineum, but had slept during the night.

He was ordered to apply twelve leeches to the perineum, to take an aperient draught, and continue fomenting.—The catheter was passed, and withdrawn.

18th.—Had not suffered so much pain ; slept tolerably well ; and had had his urine drawn off twice without difficulty. Pulse eighty ; urine thick, and a sediment of mucus at the bottom of it. The draught had operated three or four times.

To continue fomenting the perineum.

19th.—Had a restless night ; felt pain in the perineum, but more in the region of the pubes, and the glands of the groin were swollen. His urine has been drawn off twice, however, without difficulty.

To apply twenty-four leeches,—twelve

to the perineum, and twelve to the groin. To take five grains of calomel and twelve of jalap immediately. Constantly to foment the perineum and region of the pubes.

Any further account of the case I was prevented from obtaining personally, in consequence of indisposition. I afterwards learnt, however, that in a few days the irritation of the urinary organs subsided, and that the man went away nearly cured ; but, having discharged himself from the hospital, any further progress in his case was prevented. At this period, however, a catheter (No. 10) could be easily passed, and he suffered no pain whatever.

CASE II.

JOHN PREDAM, ætat. forty-seven ; February 1827. Has been afflicted with stricture of the urethra for about five or six years, during which time he was admitted as a patient into various hospitals and dispensaries, sometimes with and sometimes without relief ; but he has never been completely cured. He now suffers much pain in voiding his urine, which passes from him drop by drop, and he has not been able to have the smallest-sized bougie passed into the bladder for the last six months. In other respects he is in perfect health. Upon examination of his urethra, it was discovered that he had a stricture seven inches from the orifice ; and, frequent attempts having been made to pass a bougie through it without success, it was resolved to divide it with the armed stilette.

Feb. 14th.—Having ascertained the exact distance of the stricture from the extremity of the urethra, the armed stilette was passed down to it, and it was divided without much difficulty, with but little pain and slight haemorrhage. There was then substituted a silver catheter of the same size, which was left in the bladder.

He was ordered to take an aperient draught, to foment the perineum constantly with hot water, and to remain in bed.

15th.—He experienced so much pain that he could not keep the catheter in the bladder longer than eleven hours, when it was taken out. He has had almost a sleepless night, but, since the removal of the catheter, has not felt much pain in the perineum. Pulse ninety, and skin rather hot.

Apply twelve leeches to the perineum; to continue fomenting.—The catheter was again passed, and left in the bladder.

16th.—The catheter had remained in the bladder since its last introduction ; but its presence had caused considerable pain, which he attributes to its want of pliability, and its striking, when he moves, against the coats of the bladder ; it therefore was withdrawn altogether. Pulse eighty-four ; skin still hot ; no sleep ; and there was a sediment of mucus in his urine.

To take an opening draught ; to apply twelve leeches to the perineum, and to continue fomenting.

17th.—The pain in the perineum had nearly subsided, and he had made water twice without difficulty. The catheter was passed into the bladder with the greatest ease, and was immediately withdrawn. As the draught had not operated sufficiently, he was ordered to repeat it. Pulse eighty-four ; slept better ; skin cooler.

18th.—Still less pain in the perineum. His bowels had been relieved freely, and he had slept well during the night; pulse seventy-six; skin cool.

The catheter was again introduced.

19th.—Much better: feels pains only when micturating. Catheter passed without trouble. Pulse seventy-four; skin cool.

20th.—Still feels slight pain while voiding his urine, but all other unpleasant symptoms have vanished.

Catheter was passed, and he was ordered another aperient draught.

21st.—Free from pain altogether; feels himself quite well. He makes water without pain, and in a good-sized stream.

For about a month after this period, a

large-sized catheter (No. 12) was passed into the bladder, without the slightest impediment, twice in the week. He now voids his urine with the greatest freedom, in as large a stream as natural, and without the least pain. Since this time I have seen him frequently, and no obstruction whatever remains in the urethra.—*July 1828.*

CASE III.

APRIL 4th, 1827.—Michael Barry, ætat. fifty-one. This man had been suffering so long with stricture of the urethra, that he could not recollect when he first observed the diminution of the size in the stream of his urine. At present, and for the last two months, however, he has been only able to pass his urine drop by drop, and then with so much pain that his life has been rendered quite miserable to him.

Many trials have been made to pass bougies of all sizes, from the largest to the smallest, without avail. Upon measurement, the stricture was found to be situated three inches and a half from the glans penis. The armed stilette was introduced to that part, and the stricture divided, with but little pain and slight haemorrhage. The instrument was then withdrawn ; and, as it was discovered that another stricture existed in the membranous portion of the urethra, which would not admit of the passage of a catheter larger than No. 5, it was judged necessary not to introduce the gum catheter, but only to pass a bougie through the divided stricture every day. This was done for a fortnight, without the least inconvenience, and the other stricture was treated in the usual manner. In about six weeks both were cured ; and the man can now make water as well as ever he did in his life.

During the treatment, leeches were applied to the perineum ; purgatives given as often as the symptoms demanded them ; and the antiphlogistic regimen strictly adhered to.

CASE IV.

RICHARD LEGG, ætat. forty-four, admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with impermeable stricture of the urethra, under the care of Mr. Earle, 28th Sept. 1827.

In his youth he had experienced several attacks of gonorrhœa, which, in the second stage, were usually cured by astrin-gent injections. During sixteen years he has been afflicted with a stricture of the urethra, which has been more or less trou-blesome to him, sometimes causing him to

make water with extreme difficulty, and at others, in a tolerably-sized stream. For the last two years, however, his urine has infiltrated itself through the contracted part only by drops, accompanied with great pain and straining while voiding it, and often being totally suppressed. His health is much impaired; he has frequent attacks of rigor; and, in consequence of a perpetual fear of retention of urine, he has been obliged to give up his employment. The stricture is situated at the distance of five inches and a quarter from the orifice: it is quite impermeable, and appears to be of an indurated and cartilaginous character. No bougie, or instrument of any description, has been passed through it for five years; and, though frequent attempts have been made since he has been under treatment at the Hospital, yet not the slightest benefit has been derived from it. Thus circumstanced, he was determined to undergo

any operation that might relieve him ; and it was first suggested to divide the stricture from the perineum ; but, as cases of this description had already been permeated by the armed catheter, Mr. Earle decided upon making use of this instrument.

Oct. 19th.—The lancetted stilette was passed as far as the stricture, which, as before stated, was five inches and a quarter from the orifice. The lancet was then thrust forward, and allowed to retreat, and the blunt point of the instrument urged cautiously along the course of the urethra. With about three punctures three-fourths of an inch of the stricture were divided, giving apparently but little pain. The ground already gained being considered sufficient for the present, the catheter was withdrawn ; and, to guard against inflammation, he was desired to keep in bed, to foment, and apply twelve leeches to the

perineum, and to take an active purgative.

20th.—He had experienced no unpleasant symptom whatever from the operation ; but rather felt himself relieved, being able to make water in a larger stream. He felt no pain, his pulse was tranquil, and he had slept well during the night. On this day he required no medicine.

24th.—An instrument was passed to the stricture, and it was found that the part divided had not closed. He still felt himself benefited, and was very desirous of having the same instrument again employed.

27th.—On this day the remaining portion of the stricture was pierced with one incision of the lancet, and the catheter passed with the greatest ease into the blad-

der, and left there for about two hours ; when a gum elastic (No. 10) was introduced in its place. He was ordered to remain in bed, and to foment the perineum.

28th.—He had suffered but little pain, and had slept well. Pulse seventy-six ; skin cool, and tongue clean. He requires no medicine. Ordered still to wear the catheter and foment.

29th.—Much the same as yesterday, in every respect.

30th.—Still going on well.

31st.—The catheter was withdrawn : no medicine required.

Nov. 1st.—A catheter passed (No. 10), and he was desired to keep it in the

bladder for one hour. He gets up as usual.

Since this period a catheter has been passed daily, gradually increasing the size until it reached No. 13. On Nov. 20th he was discharged from the Hospital, perfectly cured ; and not the slightest remains of the stricture could be perceived.

CASE V.

MATHIAS MELJASO, a sailor, with an impermeable stricture, of twenty-seven years standing.

In the year 1800 he fell through the hatchway of a ship, and struck his perineum against some broken casks which were at the bottom of the vessel. After

recovering from the temporary shock which the blow occasioned, he felt an uneasiness while his urine passed through the urethra : but not finding any particular inconvenience from it, he made no complaint until 1815. At this period he was at least twenty minutes or half an hour in expelling the contents of his bladder. He then applied to a surgeon, who endeavoured, at various times, to pass a bougie for him ; but he was always frustrated in the attempt, being unable to get it farther than the stricture. In this miserable condition the poor fellow remained until 1826, when he was seized with retention of urine. On his recovery from this attack, the surgeon who attended him employed caustic bougies, with the view of destroying the stricture. Instead of this, however, (which so frequently happens,) a false passage was made by the employment of this remedy.

On Sept. 1827, he was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the present state of his urethra is as follows.— There is an impermeable stricture five inches and a half along the canal, and about half an inch anterior to it a false passage is formed, at least an inch in length. On passing the bougie to the contracted part, which is difficult on account of the false passage, it causes considerable pain; and, on withdrawing it, it is always followed by a flow of blood. He suffers much pain while making water, it flows only by drops, and he is nearly an hour in voiding it.

Oct. 29th.—The armed stilette was used, and one inch of the stricture was divided. He did not feel more pain, nor was there more haemorrhage, than when a common bougie was passed. On the following day a metallic bougie was passed to the stric-

tured part, when, with slight pressure, a band appeared to give way in the urethra, and the bougie (No. 9) slided gradually into the bladder. On the following day he had suffered no inconvenience ;— the bougie passed with ease, and he made water in a good-sized stream, which he had not done before since the year 1800. As no constitutional symptoms arose, no particular treatment was necessary : a catheter, therefore, from this period, was passed every day, and its size gradually increased. At present (Nov. 20th) No. 12 can be introduced with the greatest ease, the stricture has disappeared, and his health is quite restored.

CASE VI.

EDWARD BULL, ætat. forty-five, a sailor. He was invalided from his Majesty's service

in 1811, in consequence of an ill state of health, produced by the extreme irritation which arose from a stricture in the urethra. At that period his urine used to ooze constantly from the penis, so that his clothes were always wet. He was much emaciated, and his health was gradually declining. In 1815 he consulted an eminent surgeon, who discovered that he had a stricture. Bougies were passed until a cure was nearly effected. After this time, however, he neglected his complaint until January 1826, when he became so ill from the difficulty of voiding his urine, that he procured an admission into St. Thomas's Hospital. Here he stayed for some little time; but experiencing no relief, he left it.—He became worse, was re-admitted into that Hospital, and at length was discharged incurable. On April 6th, 1827, he was received into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the care of Mr. Earle.

On passing a bougie, its progress was arrested about six inches from the orifice ; and, as no passage could be effected, the stricture was divided from the perineum (June 9th, 1827). The operation was attended with many difficulties, from the hardened state of the parts round the canal, which resembled cartilage ; but not having been present, I am unable to describe them. A catheter, however, was at length passed ; and, in about three days afterwards, the patient incautiously allowed it to slip out. Several attempts were made to introduce it again, but without success. The wound in the perineum had nearly closed, when it was thought necessary to make a fresh incision, and to pursue the same method as before. This was attended by the same result. The wound again completely closed, and the patient's health began to suffer materially from the disease. He now could only make water in

drops, and with considerable pain. In this miserable state the patient continued, having but little hope of relief, until Oct. 10th, when the armed stilette was used. The stricture was completely impermeable, and it was divided by this instrument until it arrived at the prostate, when, on account of the extreme enlargement of this gland (being nearly as large as a turkey's egg), it would not, on this day, pass any farther. On the day following, however, a catheter (No. 8) was passed completely into the bladder, and left there; and its size was gradually increased to No. 12, which can at the present time be passed with great ease, and no obstacle now remains. The wound in the perineum is closed, but on account of the excessive diseased state of the prostate gland, the patient has lost the power of voiding his urine of his own accord: the catheter, therefore, is obliged to be passed whenever he wishes to relieve

his bladder. He has greatly improved in health ; and, finding no difficulty in passing the catheter, he feels grateful for the benefit he has experienced from the treatment.

CASE VII.

DEC. 26th, 1827.—John King, ætat. thirty.

The history he gives of himself is as follows : that, having been a post-boy, and ridden a great deal, he had frequently struck his perineum and penis against the pummel of the saddle, from which he attributes the origin of his stricture. About a year previous to the present time he was a patient in St. Bartholomew's Hospital for this disease ; and he was then relieved by

the urethra having ulcerated behind the stricture, and thus a new passage for the urine, anterior to the testes, was formed. He then discharged himself from the Hospital, and has made water by this channel ever since. This he accomplishes, however, with great difficulty, as he is obliged to pass a straw through the false passage every time he voids his urine, to facilitate its escape. Upon examination, an impermeable stricture was present three inches from the orifice, which extended to the length of two inches along the urethra, feeling at that part just as if a hardened cord had been placed there. I passed a small catheter through the fistulous opening into the bladder, which entered the urethra five inches from the orifice. I then introduced the armed catheter, and by degrees divided the stricture until I arrived at the catheter, which was introduced through the false passage. Both the catheters were then

withdrawn, and an elastic gum one passed into the bladder. The presence of this, however, kept up bleeding from the urethra ; it was, therefore, withdrawn, and the hæmorrhage immediately ceased. On the evening of the same day I saw him again. He had suffered no pain, excepting at the time the urine had made its escape through the divided portion, which it had done partially. On the following morning he left the Hospital, assigning as a reason that he had some particular business to transact. He had slept well during the night. He never returned, so that the termination of the case cannot be known. It is probable, however, the stricture having been divided, had he stayed he would have been completely cured.

CASE VIII.

J. M., ætat. thirty-seven—Jan. 1828, has been suffering from stricture in the urethra for many years; and, from my own knowledge, it has been impermeable for the two latter. From the excessive irritation produced by the disease, he is reduced almost to a skeleton, and has become excessively dejected. He assures me he has not slept for two hours together for two years; indeed, hardly one hour elapses without an inclination to make water, and he is immediately obliged to rise from his bed to relieve himself. The stricture is situated six inches from the orifice; and, in addition to it, there is an enlargement of the prostate gland. Although this latter affection was rather unfavourable, yet, from the extreme sufferings of the patient, the armed stilette was

introduced, and half an inch of the contracted portion of the urethra divided on the first day of its employment. The usual methods, leeches, &c. being prescribed, no bad symptoms arose in consequence; so that in two days afterwards (Dec. 13th), the rest of the stricture was, by the same means, permeated. Fomentation and local blood-letting from the perineum were repeated, and the catheter passed as far as the prostate gland; but, in consequence of its enlargement, I found it difficult to get it any farther, and therefore did not persist in its introduction.

On the next morning after the operation he informed me that he had slept four hours together (which he had not done for a period of two or three years before), and that he had made water in a tolerably-sized stream. From this time he improved in health, became fat, and regained his

strength. A catheter (No. 12) could be passed as far as the prostate, but I never could enter the bladder. His urine, however, continued to flow from him freely ; and he felt quite content to be so far relieved.

CASE IX.

JOHN PRATT, ætat. thirty-seven, an unhealthy looking man, has been afflicted with permanent stricture for upwards of fourteen years, occurring after gonorrhœal inflammation. For the last two years he has only voided his urine by drops. The smallest-sized bougies have latterly been repeatedly attempted to be passed, but without effect. In the month of November last, suffering for two days with retention of urine, he was cut in the perineum, by

a surgeon in the country : a catheter was introduced through this opening into the bladder, anterior to the stricture. After the lapse of a week or two, attempts were again made to pass an instrument through the natural passage, but the stricture did not yield in the least. The catheter had remained in the opening through the perineum for above seven weeks, when the patient incautiously allowed it to slip out. He made several attempts to introduce it, but was unable ; and the surgeon not being able to see him for a week after this occurrence, the wound completely healed, and the stricture in the urethra remained as permanent as ever.

On the 30th Jan. 1828, he was admitted a patient into this Hospital. Upon examining the urethra several strictures were found to exist, the principal one being about four inches and a quarter from the

external orifice. Such was the contracted state of the canal at this part, that the smallest catgut bougie could not be passed. His urine is constantly dribbling from him; and, as stated above, he has not made water in a stream for more than two years. There is also a good deal of irritation about the rectum, the patient being frequently subject to tenesmus and haemorrhage. This was considered a fit case for the trial of Mr. Stafford's newly-invented instrument. It may also be right to mention, that the prostate did not appear to be much enlarged.

On the 5th February, the patient being in a better state of health than at the time of his admission, Mr. Stafford's instrument was introduced down to the stricture, which was divided to the extent of a quarter of an inch. This operation gave the patient but little pain: no bleeding whatever took

place. The sensation conveyed to the hand of the operator was similar to that of cutting a piece of cartilage. An attempt was now made to introduce a gum catheter, but without effect: it was considered probable that the stricture had not been completely divided; but it was deemed safer to wait a day or two, than to subject the patient to pain and irritation, which a fresh introduction of the instrument would most likely occasion. He was ordered castor oil, the parts to be well fomented, and to keep the recumbent posture. About an hour after the operation (two P. M.) he made water in a very small stream, and was free from pain *. At eight P. M. he was

* Upon inquiry, he informed me, that in making water he grasped the penis at its extremity, which he was accustomed to do, to assist himself in this operation. It is probable, that by retaining the urine in this manner in the urethra, that some of it became in-

attacked with a small rigor, and a desire of making water, with considerable pain down the urethra, and about the neck of the bladder : the kidneys were also sympathetically affected. At nine P. M. these symptoms became more alarming, countenance flushed, the whole body covered with a profuse sweat, pulse quick and irritable ; and he has a great desire of making water, but none has flowed since the afternoon ; bladder slightly distended ; both testicles are swollen, and are acutely painful ; the perineum is tense, and painful on pressure. These symptoms were relieved by the application of five-and-twenty leeches to the perineum, followed by the use of the warm bath, and the exhibition of an opiate clys-

filtrated into that portion of the stricture which was divided, and thus the irritation which subsequently occurred was produced.—*The Author.*

ter: in about four hours afterwards he voided about a quart of urine.

Feb. 6th.—Inflammatory symptoms have not yet subsided: ordered him hirudines xxx. perineo, postea cataplas. panis; haust. salin. c. 3 iij. ant. tart. 3 ss. sextis horis. At ten p. m. he was free from pain, and felt inclined to sleep.

From the tense and painful state of the perineum, it was thought proper to make an incision down to the urethra; and, upon dividing this, about a table-spoonful of pus escaped: this gave the patient almost immediate relief. Pus and urine continued to be discharged from this opening for several days.

On the 8th March, the patient being in a tolerably quiet state, the lancetted stilette was again used, and the stricture com-

pletely divided. An elastic catheter was with great facility passed through the stricture into the bladder, and left there. In a few days the wound in the perineum healed, his health was completely restored, and he could make water as well as he ever had done. In the beginning of April he went into the country, and at that time a No. 12 catheter could be passed, and all obstruction in the urethra had vanished.

For the notes of this case I am indebted to Mr. Tarral.

CASE X.

IN 1825 I had gonorrhœa, of which I got perfectly cured : about twelve months after, I had a swelled testicle, brought on by jumping; I was compelled to wear a

purse-truss for some months. I discovered that in the part where the tape of the truss pressed, I had a slight scalding when I made water; I took no notice of this for some months, but left off the truss. It became so painful that I applied to a surgeon, and he passed a bougie, and discovered it was a stricture. Passing a bougie brought on the swelled testicle, and I was again compelled to wear the truss. I had a bougie passed twice or thrice a week, till I was considered cured. In March 1827, the urethra became so contracted that the water could not pass: I was then compelled to have immediate relief; and, with the greatest difficulty, a small catheter was passed, but not large enough to draw off the water. This brought on an irritation of the nerves, palpitation of the heart, and a violent hiccough, which lasted nine days, and was stopped by Mr. D.: I was confined to my room for three months. I

could pass my water in a stream the size of a small wire, till the November following, when the water again stopped, and I was compelled to have immediate relief: a small catgut bougie was then passed; a palpitation of the heart again followed, and I was kept from business five weeks. Caustic bougies were passed to the stricture, but would not decrease it in the least. I could not hold my water after this date. I had the advice of two of the most eminent surgeons in London, but without effect; and remained making water only in drops till 1st February last, when I made application at Bartholomew's Hospital, and had the good fortune to be placed in Mr. Earle's ward.

On the first day of my being in the hospital, Mr. Earle tried to pass a small bougie, No. 1, but could not. I had warm baths every night for a week, and

Mr. Earle then tried to pass a small wire, but without success. After this Mr. E. tried to pass a wax bougie, but so hard was the stricture that several of them were bent, and would not enter the stricture. I was in the greatest agony possible, trying and straining to make water twice or thrice an hour, night and day, and could only make a few drops at a time. I had been in the hospital nearly five weeks, when my bladder became so diseased that Mr. Earle found it necessary to make a passage, and he tried every means on the 1st March last, but without effect*. I

* The stricture was partly divided with the lancetted stilette. On the following day the catheter was passed, owing, no doubt, to the other portion of it having ulcerated from the puncture, and in this opinion Mr. Earle accords. This stricture could be felt exteriorly, and the canal all around was of a stony hardness.—*The Author.*

was in the operation-room of the hospital nearly forty minutes on this day. The next day (Sunday), Mr. Earle was kind enough to try again to make a passage, and in less than ten minutes he succeeded in passing a small catheter, and the water instantly came in a better stream than it had for twelve months before. I have not had any palpitation of the heart, or any pain or irritation, since. On the Tuesday following, Mr. Earle succeeded, without the least pain to me, in passing a gum catheter, double the size of the first; and, on the Saturday following, Mr. Earle passed one nearly double the size of the second.

I am now in better health, can pass my water better, and have less pain, than I have had for ten months before. My water is now quite clear; and, instead of making ten or twelve drops at a time, and

even that with a great deal of pain, I can now pass nearly a pint without the least pain or smarting whatever.

JOHN WISE,

23, UPPER CLIFTON-STREET, FINSBURY,

March 10, 1828.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your inquiries respecting Mr. A. lately Surgeon in the Honourable Company's Service, in whose case I employed your instrument, I beg leave to state that I was requested to see him on Saturday, the 22d of December, under the following circumstances :

He had been labouring for above twenty years under the most distressing symptoms from strictures. In the East he had been

frequently obliged to wear a small catgut bougie in the urethra, during his campaigns, and had been constantly liable to alarming retentions of urine. Caustic bougies were employed very freely, both by himself and others, and, since his return home, one gentleman had passed the caustic bougie above sixty times, without making the slightest progress. The smallest catgut bougie could not be passed beyond three inches and a half down the urethra. When he wished to relieve the bladder he was generally obliged to introduce the bougie to this spot, on withdrawing which the urine flowed guttatum, and sometimes in a very small continued stream. Latterly he had been under the care of another practitioner, who had passed caustic bougies twice a day for some time, without at all advancing; and this gentleman, perceiving that his health was fast breaking, that his nights were passed

without rest, and that he had repeated severe rigors, proposed to puncture his bladder through the rectum, as the only means to save his life. Previously to submitting to this operation he requested my opinion: I found him in a most distressing state of nervous irritation, with a haggard and most anxious countenance, and it was at once obvious that he could not long survive under such circumstances. He had a constant copious discharge from the urethra, at the entrance of which I found a very narrow stricture, which I have no doubt was the original cause of all his suffering: this was partly from natural formation, increased by inflammation and the continual irritation of the caustic applications, which had blackened the mucous lining of the urethra. Beyond this, at about two inches and a half down, the urethra again contracted to so narrow a passage that

the smallest bougie had not been passed through into the bladder for many years. I endeavoured to calm his mind, and proposed to divide the narrow orifice to the urethra, as a preliminary measure. To this he most readily consented ; and after the operation I was enabled, with some difficulty, to pass in a No. 12 catheter down to the second stricture. This first operation afforded him some relief ; he expressed himself as most grateful for it, and had fewer spasmotic attacks and no rigors. I was very anxious to defer any other operation, and to endeavour to tranquillize his urethra and restore his general health ; but he was most urgent for me to proceed, and even said, “ If you do not soon relieve me, I fear that I shall rush into the presence of my Maker unprepared.” Under these circumstances, and against my better judgment, I performed a second operation, with an instrument made after your plan,

only quite straight. This instrument was of the full size of a bougie No. 12, and was with some difficulty carried down to the second stricture, causing rather a painful distention of the urethra. This circumstance prevented my using the instrument with that freedom and facility which is desirable. With much difficulty I cut through a very tough substance, to the extent of three-quarters of an inch, and followed it up with a metallic bougie to that extent. A very few drops of blood followed the operation, which I felt unwilling to pursue farther on that day. In the evening he had a slight rigor, but the urine flowed more freely than it had done for years. The following day there was a slight erysipelatous blush, with tenderness on pressure over the pubes and in the course of the urethra. Leeches and fomentations were applied, which abated the inflammation so much that I did not

consider it necessary to cut down, which I had determined to do if there was any threatening of abscess from effused urine. Two days after the operation, the irritation was sufficiently subdued to enable me to introduce a metallic catheter to the full extent to which I had divided the stricture. This caused some pain and a return of the rigors, but no increase of swelling, or erysipelas. The following day his stomach became very irritable, and he rejected his food with frequent and most troublesome hiccoughs. These symptoms continued with unabated violence, until death put an end to his sufferings, the 11th of January. The urine continued to flow at intervals during the whole time, and there were no local circumstances warranting any operation, on the supposition of the symptoms depending on effusion of urine.

On examination after death, there was

sloughing of the cellular membrane to a slight extent under the integuments of the pubes, and this was connected behind the scrotum with the diseased portion of the urethra. On slitting up the urethra, no direct communication could be traced between that canal and the sloughing cellular membrane. The stricture was nearly divided through, and had I persevered to the extent of about a line and a half further, I should have opened into a healthy part of the urethra, and have been able to carry my instrument on into the bladder, as no very material obstacle presented itself between the second stricture and that viscus. The bladder was much thickened, and the mucous coat in part ulcerated, in other parts covered with a very firm incrustation of lymph, giving it the appearance of the lining of a bird's gizzard. The prostate was not much enlarged. The mucous coat of the stomach was much inflamed, and the

liver was diseased. In reflecting on this case, I regret that I performed the operation at all, under such very unfavourable circumstances, and having commenced it, I regret that I did not employ a smaller instrument, and cut more boldly on to a greater extent. Having performed the operation, and the unfavourable symptoms having occurred, I lament that I did not at once cut down through the integuments of the scrotum, and divide the remaining portion of the stricture. But the symptoms did not appear to warrant such a proceeding. You are at liberty to make any use of this brief sketch of the case that you may wish.

Believe me, truly yours,

H. EARLE.

GEORGE-STREET, July 15th, 1828.

P. S. I may just add, that I have now employed your instrument in eight cases—

in six with perfect success, in one with partial relief, and in the case above recorded with a fatal termination.

As the present case is the only one where the use of this instrument appears to have been attended with want of success, I feel it necessary to make a few remarks upon it. It appears to me very doubtful whether the patient died from its employment. He was in the last degree of exhaustion before the operation was performed; and of this he himself appeared fully conscious, from the strong expression he made use of,—“ If you do not soon relieve me, I fear I shall rush into the presence of my Maker unprepared !” The state of the body after death, also, does not warrant us in believing that he died alone from this cause. We may observe,

as well as there being “a sloughing of the cellular membrane to a slight extent under the integuments of the pubes, which was connected with the scrotum,” that “the bladder was much thickened, its mucous coat in parts ulcerated ; and, in other parts, covered with a very firm incrustation of lymph ;” and that also “the mucous coat of the stomach was much inflamed, and the liver diseased.”

These latter causes were more likely to have produced death than the operation ; and more particularly when, “on slitting up the urethra, no direct communication could be traced between that canal and the sloughing cellular membrane.”

The following are the cases where I have divided Permeable Stricture with the double-lancetted stilette.

CASE I.

DEC. 10, 1827.—John Sych, ætat. seventy, has suffered from strictures twenty-three years; during which time he has frequently endeavoured to dilate it with bougies; but immediately on leaving off their use, the passage has again closed. During this period he has had frequent attacks of retention of urine; but for the last ten years past, he has been afflicted with incontinence of urine, so that he has been unable to keep his clothes or his bed dry. Upon examination I found a stricture six inches from the orifice, through which I could only pass a catheter No. 1; and, as the contraction, when dilated, had

always closed again, I resolved to use the double-lancetted catheter : I accordingly introduced the wire through the catheter, withdrawing it, and leaving the former in the urethra. I then passed the armed catheter over it ; and, when it arrived at the stricture, I pressed upon the handle of the stilette, and protruded the lancets. By two incisions the stricture was divided, and the catheter No. 10 was left in the bladder. The operation gave but little pain, and there was but very slight bleeding. The patient, in fact, was astonished that so large an instrument could be got into the bladder, not being aware that it had been divided. On the evening of the same day he felt pain in the urethra, and there appeared to be a disposition to inflammation: the catheter, therefore, was withdrawn, and leeches applied to the perineum, besides its being constantly fomented.

11th.—He had felt a little restless during the night; but, upon the whole, he had slept tolerably well. His pulse was quiet, being only seventy-five; and he had had no unpleasant symptom. A catheter, No. 11, was passed with the greatest ease. Since the operation his urine has not flowed involuntarily, and he has been able to retain it in the bladder. He was ordered twelve leeches to the perineum, to take an aperient draught, and to foment: if necessary, also, to take an opiate at night.

12th.—He had slept well during the night; his pulse still remained quiet; and he had had no untoward symptom: he only feels pain as the urine passes through the divided part. A catheter was passed, and he was ordered to continue fomenting.

It is unnecessary for me to give any far-

ther history of this case. The patient went on so well that he quite recovered in a fortnight. No. 13 catheter could be passed without pain, and with great ease. He now has no incontinence of urine, and he makes water with the greatest freedom. He continues well (June 30th, 1828); and his health is as good as an old man of seventy can expect.

CASE II.

JOHN HAWKES, æt. fifty-one—Feb. 1828, has suffered from stricture for about twenty years, which has reduced him to an extreme degree of emaciation. He has at various times been under treatment at different hospitals, but never with complete relief. At present the disease is more aggravated than it ever has been. He suf-

fers great pain, he has sleepless nights, and makes water with great difficulty. Upon examination I found he had a stricture three inches from the orifice, and he complains that when the urine arrives at this part, it is suddenly stopped, and that it is infiltrated through it by drops. The stricture, which could be felt externally, (the urethra being hardened for at least half an inch) would only admit a very fine wire. Over this I passed the straight double-lancetted stilette, and divided the stricture. On attempting to pass a catheter, I found another stricture in the membranous portion: This was of an inflammatory character; I therefore treated it by the ordinary means, and passed a bougie through the divided one daily, which was cured in a fortnight. In six weeks the other also got well, and the man was completely restored to health.

CASE III.

A. B. æstat. sixty-four—March 1828, has suffered from stricture for many years, during which time he has had all those distressing symptoms attendant upon that disease. He has been unable to void his urine in any other manner than in drops; he has frequently suffered from retention of urine, and he now has a perpetual desire to make water, which in the night-time prevents his sleeping. Frequent attempts have been made to dilate the stricture, which is situated four inches and a half from the orifice; but it is of so cartilaginous a hardness, that they have always been unsuccessful. The smallest sized catheter can be at present passed through the contraction, but with great difficulty.

On March 7th, Mr. Chevalier (to whose

kindness I am indebted for the case,) and myself employed the double-lancetted stilette. The catheter, containing a wire, was introduced, and the former withdrawn, while the latter was left in the canal of the urethra. The stilette was then passed over the wire, and when arrived at the stricture, the lancets protruded. These evidently incised the contraction, but the blunt point of the stilette would not pass on. The lancets were again employed, without apparently giving pain. The stricture appeared to yield, but the instrument would not entirely pass through it, owing, no doubt, to the excessive hardness and the inelastic and unyielding nature of the contraction. For this reason it was withdrawn, and a smaller catheter (No. 6) introduced, which passed readily into the bladder. This was securely fixed, and the patient was desired not to withdraw it. On the following day he said he had suffered

some pain from its presence during the night ; but his pulse was not accelerated, nor was there any feverish symptom. He was ordered a purgative draught, leeches, and a fomentation to the perineum, and the catheter was withdrawn. On the next day all inflammatory symptoms had subsided. A catheter (No. 8) was passed and withdrawn : no medicine required.

From this time a catheter was passed daily, gradually increasing its size ; and in about three weeks or a month the stricture was perfectly cured, and all the consequent symptoms from its presence had vanished.

CASE IV.

MARCH, 1828.—J. S. has a contracted orifice of the urethra, which will only admit

through it a very small bougie ; and the part around it, at the point of the glans penis, is of a stony hardness. The orifice of the urethra was enlarged to its natural size, and a wedge made of a portion of bougie introduced, and constantly kept there, to prevent its closing. The divided portion secreted pus, and then healed, and the induration decreased. In about a month the decreased part was restored to its healthy condition.

CASE V.

WILLIAM HOULST, ætat. fifty-four—April 1828. The exact period when he first perceived he had a stricture he does not recollect ; he believes it to be, however, fourteen or fifteen years ago. For the last five or six years he has suffered great inconve-

nience from it, having a constant desire to make water, and the stream not being much larger than a hair. About five years ago he was under treatment for it, but since this period it has returned. The stricture is situated four inches and a half from the orifice; a very small bougie can be passed through it, and it appears to be of a hardened structure. For this reason I considered it to be a case well adapted for the use of the double-lancetted stilette; and on April 27th I made use of it. After having introduced the smallest-sized catheter, containing the wire, through it, I left the latter in the urethra. The double-lancetted stilette was then passed over the wire down to the stricture, and it was divided with great ease. The operation gave but little pain, and there was hardly any bleeding. The patient remarked, that when a bougie was passed for him formerly, it gave him quite as much, if not more

pain, than the passage of this instrument. A gum-elastic catheter was introduced into the bladder, and left there, and the patient was ordered to remain in bed, to foment the perineum, to be placed on farinaceous diet, and to take a brisk purge.

April 28th.—He had suffered but little pain from the presence of the catheter, had had three or four hours' sleep during the night, and felt himself, upon the whole, tolerably comfortable: no medicine required.—To continue fomenting.

29th.—Much the same as yesterday ; but expressed a wish for the catheter to be withdrawn: this was accordingly done. His aperient draught was repeated, and the fomentation still employed.

30th.—Still going on well. The catheter was passed.

From this period the catheter was passed daily, the same treatment continued ; and, in three weeks he was perfectly cured.

It is almost needless to make any farther remark on these cases—they speak for themselves: nevertheless, it may be observed, that they were all of the most obstinate and aggravated description, and that they had resisted all other means of treatment. Some of the strictures had been of four, six, eight, sixteen, seventeen, twenty, twenty-three, and twenty-seven years' duration ; others had been treated by caustic, with bad consequences ; and, in two instances, the strictures had been divided from the perineum unsuccessfully. The pain is trifling ; and the cure, also, of strictures by this method is permanent, and at the same time it is very speedily accomplished, the average time before the part is restored to its healthy condition being

from three weeks to a month : for, although in some cases the patients remained under treatment for a longer period (particularly Richard Legg and Mathias Meljaso), to ensure a more complete cure, yet a full-sized catheter could be passed without pain long before they were discharged from the hands of the surgeon.

From the experience which I have now had of the lancetted stilettos, and from the success which has attended their use, I have every reason to hope that these instruments may, in some cases, supersede the necessity of more serious operations; and in others, afford relief with more certainty and less delay than the means at present employed.

ADDITIONAL CASES.

M

CASE I.

F. J. Esq. applied to me at Brighton, on 8th August, 1828. The following letter will give the history of the case in his own words.

My Dear Sir,

I am induced to think you will feel an interest in receiving from myself a particular statement of the commencement and progress of the disease from which I have so long been a sufferer, and also of the treatment I underwent while under the care of some of the most eminent of the profession previous to my becoming your patient.

In the autumn of 1799, I first experienced

a difficulty in passing my urine; and as I resided in the neighbourhood of Oxford, I applied to one of the senior, and most eminent surgeons of that city. After having carefully examined me, he pronounced my complaint to be a bad stricture, situated about three inches down the urethra, and of so decided a character as to require Sir Everard Home's method of treatment, by the use of the caustic bougie. In consequence of this information I took lodgings near to him, so that I might reap the benefit of his constant attention. On the first application of the caustic, a considerable effusion of blood followed the removal of the bougie, and this recurred at each time it was employed. The caustic was used at intervals for about a month, when my surgeon discharged me from his hands as cured. It was not until the year 1820 that I again experienced the return of the complaint to such a degree as to require

professional attendance; and my former medical friend having retired from practice, I then placed myself under the care of Sir Everard Home, who discovered that the stricture was formed in the same place as before. My urethra was likewise in a very irritable state, and the stricture was attended by severe spasms—so severe, that on one occasion about an inch of the bougie (which was afterwards fortunately forced out by the urine) was actually cut off, and left in the urethra. At this period the caustic was only applied a few times, as it caused great pain and irritation in the urethra, and very distressing rigors were brought on. On this account, Sir Everard, fearing that he might produce serious mischief from its employment, left it off, and merely passed a metallic bougie every third or fourth day. I remained under his care for two months, and although I was much relieved, I was by no means cured. From this time I oc-

casionally passed bougies for myself until the year 1826, when I became so much worse that I could only void my urine drop by drop. The pain in the urethra was excessive ; and from the violent straining I was obliged to make use of, a considerable soreness of the lower part of the abdomen and loins was brought on. The disease now began seriously to affect my health ; and I therefore was again compelled to have recourse to surgical aid. I accordingly applied to a gentleman of known eminence and experience for advice. His opinions corresponded exactly with the other surgeons, excepting that the stricture was much worse ; and he found that it would only admit through it the very smallest bougie, and the introduction of that was always attended with great pain and difficulty. From the very gentle and judicious manner in which he passed the bougie I had great hopes that the disease

would have yielded to this remedy. The case, however, after some period of time had elapsed, continued as obstinate as ever. The caustic, therefore, was again used several times, but it failed in producing the desired effect, and at the same time it gave rise to symptoms threatening retention of urine, for which reason its farther application was abandoned. I now was driven to despair, and gave up all hopes of recovery, as every known remedy had been employed. I continued to get weaker; my appetite was gone; my water frequently flowed from me involuntarily; and my sleep was disturbed seven or eight, and even more times, every night, by a propensity, which was attended by extreme pain, and an involuntary straining, so distressing that it exceeded any thing that I can possibly describe, to make water. In fact, I found my bodily powers gradually declin-

ing, and felt aware that under such a state of suffering I could not live very long. On seriously asking my professional attendant, (under whose care I had been for nearly two years), if I had any chance of being cured, he very candidly said “he thought I should always be subject to the disease;” and he advised me to try the effect of sea air, and warm vapour baths, which he hoped would renovate my health, and enable me to resume the use of bougies. Although I was convinced all the baths in the world could not restore me to health while I was afflicted with such a painful organic disease, yet I yielded to the earnest solicitation of my family, solely for their satisfaction. I joined my youngest son, who was at this time at Brighton, (July 1828). I had not been there, I believe, a fortnight, when I found myself getting alarmingly worse. At length I was attacked with re-

tention of urine, and on the 4th of August I became your patient. * * *

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N.B.—This hiatus was filled with complimentary observations, unnecessary to be repeated.

I need not detail the history of my case any farther. I think it right, however, to mention that the pain of the operation of dividing the stricture was so trifling that I have many times suffered more from the passage of the bougie; and when I speak of it, as compared with the application of caustic, it really is nothing. In conclusion, I beg to add that I am sixty-one years of age, and that I have been suffering from this complaint twenty-nine years. I weighed, nine days after the operation, nine stone twelve pounds; and on the 17th of November following, ten stone eleven pounds and

a quarter, being an increase of thirteen pounds and a quarter. I am now perfectly recovered ; my health is completely restored ; nor should I be aware, from the stream of urine which I at present can make, that I ever had had any obstruction in the urethra.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely and gratefully,

F. J.

When I first saw Mr. J. he was labouring under retention of urine. His countenance was pale and emaciated, and his whole system obviously worn out by the long continuance of pain and disease. His hands were tremulous, and his bodily strength so weak that he could scarcely stand. His pulse was feeble and quick : he could eat nothing, and his spirits were low and exhausted. He had not made water for twelve hours ; and had only passed it by drops, and involuntarily, for

two years. I first attempted to pass a bougie, but the irritation of the urethra was so excessive as to foil all my attempts ; I therefore ordered twelve leeches to the perineum, fomentations, warm bath, and opiate injections. In two or three hours after their application and use, the urine flowed in drops ; and, upon further trial, I was enabled to introduce a bougie about the size of a knitting-needle. I found the stricture three inches from the orifice : it appeared to extend half an inch, and it could be felt externally like a hard cord. The bougie was stopped by the violent spasm at the membranous part ; I therefore withdrew it, and ordered him to repeat the fomentation and injections, and to take an opening draught. The state of my patient—the extreme irritation of the urethra and of the bladder, which, from the discharge of purulent mucus, appeared to be highly inflamed, if not on

the verge of ulceration—the long continuance of the disease—and the inefficiency of the usual mode of treatment—determined me to propose dividing it. Having obtained the consent of my patient, I went to London for the instruments. On my return on the following day, I found him in much the same state. The day after (8th August) I operated with the double-lancetted stilette over the wire, in the manner described in the employment of this instrument. He stood up during the whole of the operation, which lasted about a minute and a half, and complained of little pain ; and I was surprised to find only a few drops of blood followed the incisions. I divided the stricture throughout its length without withdrawing the instrument, but could only pass the catheter as far as the membranous portion. Here the spasm was so violent as to make me desist ; I therefore left a No. 9 bougie in the ure-

thra, through the divided stricture. I ordered leeches to be applied immediately, and fomentations. When I came in the evening I was much gratified to find that my patient, wishing to make water, had withdrawn the bougie, and voided his urine in a full stream, and with little pain. I again introduced the same bougie through the stricture, and left it there, ordering a continuance of the fomentations, with an opiate draught.

In the morning of the 9th I found my patient had passed a comfortable night, not having been obliged to rise from his bed but once, and having retained the urine eight hours—a circumstance which had not happened for two years. After making water he had himself been able to pass the bougie through the stricture. He now voided his urine in my presence, and in a full stream.

On the following morning he complained of pain from the presence of the bougie ; and the urethra felt sore as the urine passed over it. Twelve leeches were applied, fomentations ordered, and the bougie withdrawn. In the evening he was feverish, and had a severe rigor during the night ; but made water in a full stream, though with rather more pain. On examining the urine in the morning, there was about a desert-spoonful of puriform sediment. I ordered him some antimonial draughts, which, in a few hours, threw him into a profuse perspiration, with great relief. In the evening his pulse was 85, and he seemed much better.

From this time no remarkable symptoms occurred, and the irritation of the urethra gradually subsided. On the day week that operation was performed the urethra appeared quite healed, and I

passed a catheter, No. 8, with ease into the bladder. This I repeated twice a week for a month, gradually enlarging the size of the catheter to the natural calibre of the urethra.

The rapidity with which this patient regained his physical powers was remarkable. His appetite improved,—he slept well,—he became strong, and he lost that tremulousness which marks an enfeebled body. He daily gained flesh, his animal spirits increased, and, instead of being one who was overtaken by a premature old age, he was by far more active than men of his years usually are.

CASE II.

W^M. CHATERS, æstat. fifty, an unhealthy, emaciated man, was admitted into St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary under the following circumstances. He states, that he has been the subject of a stricture in the urethra twenty-eight years, and that about eighteen years ago the canal at the part having become so much closed that the smallest-sized bougie could not be passed through it, the caustic was applied several times during the space of three months, without the least benefit; he was therefore discharged from the surgeon's hands as incurable; and ever since this period he has suffered the worst symptoms which occur from stricture. He has voided his urine *guttatim*, or it has passed away from him involuntarily. He has had frequent

attacks of retention of urine, and he has been constantly subject to rigors. Since the application of the caustic, many attempts have been made to introduce a bougie, but they have always been resisted.

Upon examination, it was discovered that an impermeable stricture was present, about six inches down the canal, and that the urethra itself, anterior to it, was in an extremely irritable state ; leeches, therefore, were frequently applied to the perineum ; fomentations used, and all the other means for reducing inflammation were employed. Occasionally the smallest-sized bougies were introduced as far as the contraction, but they could never be made to pass it. Under these circumstances I was requested, by my friend Mr. C. Phillips, the surgeon of the institution, to examine the patient with a view of operating.

Having obtained the patient's consent, on the 2d of November I divided three-fourths of an inch of the stricture with the single-lancetted stilette: the pain was trifling, and the bleeding only amounted to a few drops. This I considered sufficient at one operation; I therefore withdrew the instrument, and ordered leeches, &c. as in the former case; but the stricture not being divided throughout, I did not leave the bougie in the urethra.

On the following day he had felt but little inconvenience, excepting, as was customary with him after the introduction of a bougie, he was attacked by a slight rigor. He had made water in a small stream.

4th.—To-day a small-sized elastic gum catheter (No. 4) was introduced, with the view of keeping the divided part open; and it passed on through the stricture into

the bladder with the greatest facility. It was left in the urethra.

5th.—The catheter remaining in the bladder had caused no unpleasant symptoms ; and, as the urine escaped on one side of it, as well as through it, it was withdrawn, and replaced by another double its size. This, also, passed with great ease.

In ten days from the operation the urethra could admit through it, without the slightest difficulty, a No. 13 catheter ; and at this present time (Feb. 27th, 1829,) there is not the slightest impediment whatever in the canal.

CASE III.

Mr. C., a gentleman ætat. twenty-three, of a nervous temperament, applied to me with stricture, which he had laboured under for two years. For a twelvemonth of this time he had been under treatment by dilatation with the common bougies ; and when the largest-sized could be passed he was considered by his medical attendant as cured. Six months afterwards he found the stream of urine gradually to diminish, until it was no larger in diameter than that of packthread. He then put himself under my care, and, upon examining him, I found the urethra so irritable that a bougie would not pass.

I ordered him to apply leeches, use fomentations, take anodynes, and intro-

duce opiate suppositories. Under this treatment the irritability of the urethra, in the course of a week or two diminished, so that I could pass the smallest-sized bougie into the bladder. The stricture (which was six inches from the orifice) was too tortuous to admit a metallic instrument: I was therefore unable to introduce the directing wire.

Under these circumstances, as I had promised to operate, and my patient was very anxious to have it done, I merely divided about half an inch of the stricture, with the single-lancetted stilette. No bougie was introduced. Leeches were applied once or twice. My own ill health compelled me to discontinue attendance for two months. When I was again able to see him, he stated that he was immediately so much relieved, and the stream of urine so much enlarged, that he had done

nothing. On my wishing to examine the state of his urethra, he was so afraid of producing irritation that I did not think it right to press it. The stream of urine was quite natural in size.

CASE IV.

THOMAS FACEY, ætat. forty-three, admitted into St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary November 6, 1828. The state of this man's urethra is as follows. He has a hardened contraction of the orifice, and another of about half an inch in length an inch further on. Four inches from the orifice there is a permanent stricture, and also at the bulb ; the urethra is quite impermeable. He states, that he has been strictured for about twenty years ; and that eight years ago he was admitted into the London Hospital, and other public Institutions, and that from each he was discharged incurable. Since this he has suffered the worst symptoms that this disease inflicts, without being able to get any relief ; and, at present, he

is reduced to the greatest degree of emaciation and debility, making water only by drops, constantly and involuntarily.

On November 10th, I enlarged the orifice to its natural size, and divided the second stricture. A bougie was left in the urethra, to keep the parts from closing; and leeches were applied on the perineum, with a view to prevent inflammation. In a few days from this time the divided parts had healed; and I found that the smallest bougie would pass through the fourth stricture, which before had been impermeable. This was withdrawn; and, on endeavouring to pass the catheter through which the wire is introduced, it was impracticable. For this reason, and from the exhausted state of the patient, who was hardly equal so soon to undergo another operation, no further attempt was made

until the 28th, when, with great difficulty, it was at length introduced into the bladder. With the assistance of my friend, Mr. Leech, I immediately operated, over the wire, with the double stilette, upon the third stricture, about half an inch in extent; and also divided the fourth stricture, at the bulb and membranous portion, more than an inch in length. Not so much as a table-spoonful of blood was lost, and the operation lasted about two minutes. I did not attempt to pass the instrument into the bladder, but left the small catheter, used for introducing the wire, in it. I ordered eight leeches to be applied to the perineum, with fomentations, and an opiate clyster. On the following day I found he had had a rigor during the night, but no other unfavourable symptom. The urine had made its escape (not only through but) on the sides of the ca-

theter. He had no pain : I therefore let it remain, merely ordering the continuance of fomentations.

The next day he was better, and going on favourably. On December 1st, the third day from the operation, finding him quite free from pain, I withdrew the small-sized, and introduced a No. 8 catheter, which was passed into the bladder with ease, and without pain. This was also allowed to remain for a few days, when the size was gradually increased to No. 11, which appeared to be the largest which his urethra would admit. In five weeks I considered him quite cured, as he made water naturally. I passed a steel sound without difficulty for a fortnight before he was discharged.

N. B. March 4th, 1829.—About ten

days ago I passed a No. 10 steel sound with the greatest ease, and he continues to make water naturally. To my surprise the sound struck against a stone. On inquiry, I found he had never had any pain, or symptoms of that disease. Today I saw him at the Infirmary, and he produced a stone about the size of a small pea, which he had passed without pain, and he informs me that he has voided no less than six of the same description since the operation.

CASE V.

I WAS requested to see a patient in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, about the middle of last summer, by Mr. Vincent. He had an impermeable stricture situated between five and six inches down the canal, and a fistulous passage connected with the urethra, in the périneum. I operated with the single lancetted stilette, and divided through the stricture, (which was of so hard a nature that it required several incisions before it could be permeated), until the instrument touched a probe held by Mr. V. in the fistulous passage. Immediately after the operation, a catheter could be introduced into the bladder.

On account of my own ill health I did not superintend the management of the

case ; but I have since seen the patient, and find that a large sized catheter could be passed with ease into the bladder two or three months afterwards. I should not have reported this case, from the little evidence it affords, but in compliance with a rule I have made, not to select but to publish each of them individually.

CASE VI.

JOHN EDWARDS, æt. 49, was admitted into the St. Marylebone Infirmary.— This man had suffered from stricture for some years, but seemed, not having had bougies passed, to have had but little surgical attendance. The prepuce was entirely adherent to the glans penis, and the orifice was so closed and hardened that it would not admit through it a larger instrument than a No. 2 catheter. There was an impermeable stricture also five inches down the canal. The hardened edges of the prepuce were circumcised, the prepuce itself dissected from the glans, and thrown back, as in the operation for phymosis. A month elapsed before the parts healed sufficiently to do any thing more. The orifice was then enlarged to its na-

tural size, and kept open by the introduction of a bougie. In a week from this time, the urethra was again examined, and it was found that the stricture would admit through it the smallest catheter. This was accomplished, however, with considerable difficulty ; and as it was uncertain whether I might be able to pass it again, I introduced the wire, left it in the urethra, and operated at once with the double lancetted stilette. The stricture was easily divided ; and as there seemed a disposition to great irritation from the bougie never having been previously passed, I did not leave a catheter in the bladder. Leeches were immediately applied, fomentations used, and a purgative administered. On the next day he had voided his urine with the greatest freedom, but the urethra was so irritable that it would not allow of a catheter being passed through it into the bladder. I therefore

left it alone altogether, only using the remedies to allay inflammation. The urine still passed away in a large sized stream : at the end of three weeks I again tried to pass an instrument, and introduced a No. 12 steel sound into the bladder with the greatest facility. As he had no impediment, and passed his water naturally, I did not think it necessary to irritate his urethra by passing the bougie, and he was discharged cured.

CASE VII.

FEB. 1829.—B. F. æt. 60, a general officer in his Majesty's service, who had served many years in India, consulted me under the following circumstances. He had two strictures of the urethra, one four inches from the orifice, and the other in the membranous portion. In addition to these, also, there was an enlarged and hardened prostate gland. The stricture, situated four inches down the canal, was of an extremely indurated structure, and could only admit through it a bougie, about the size of a crow-quill; and the other, that in the membranous portion, could allow a bougie of the same size to pass, but with more difficulty, on account of spasm. From these strictures he had been suffering for many years, and of late

they had greatly increased. Instead, also, of dilators relieving, they increased the malady ; and from the frequent accession of inflammation, there was always a danger of retention of urine. About two years ago he was treated by having them dilated according to Dr. Arnott's method. Since this, however, the strictures have returned ; and he has, therefore, had recourse to the application of caustic, which has been used more than an hundred times. This latter plan of treatment was as unsuccessful as the former, as the disease was rapidly gaining ground. He at length determined to have the strictures divided with the lancetted stilette.

Feb. 8th.—The operation was performed on the first stricture, which was about three-fourths of an inch in length. He suffered but little pain, and only a few drops of blood followed. The other stric-

ture was left without any thing being done for it. A No. 10 bougie was passed through the divided part; leeches applied, and fomentations used. On the following day, no medicine, excepting an aperient draught, was required. From the anxiety of the patient to keep the parts open, a bougie was left in the urethra for six days, and withdrawn when necessary. A steel sound (No. 10) could at this time be passed, not only through the divided stricture, but also through that at the membranous portion, with the greatest ease. In less than a fortnight from the operation, both the strictures would allow of the introduction of a steel sound, (No. 15), measuring an inch and one-sixteenth in circumference, to be introduced through them into the bladder; and this instrument could be passed backwards and forwards through the whole course of the urethra without the slightest obstruction or hardness being felt.

Since this time the patient has continued well, and the hardness and size of the prostate gland has considerably subsided.

MARCH 12, 1829.

CASE VIII.

A MIDDLE aged man, a tailor by trade, who was in the habit of applying at St. Bartholomew's Hospital about every fortnight, on account of retention of urine, came under my care in the beginning of the year 1828, with stricture, and disease of the urethra throughout its whole course. It was permeable only to the smallest sized flexible instrument, which could follow its winding as far as four inches, but there stopped. Although this case appeared almost hopeless, yet, from the anxiety of the man to have every plan of treatment tried which offered a chance of relief, I operated with the single lancetted stilette, and succeeded in passing the instrument, by different divisions of the urethra, to the extent of four

inches. I left a bougie in the canal ; ordered leeches and fomentations ; and on the next morning an aperient draught.

On the following day I found that he had suffered so little as to be sitting on his board at work. He had withdrawn the bougie, and said that he passed his water more freely.

In a week I thought the urethra sufficiently healed to proceed with the treatment, but he declined submitting to any farther operation, not, as he stated, from his own fears, but from the interference and apprehension of his friends, at so novel a plan of treatment. Since that period I have heard that a silver catheter has been introduced into the bladder, which before could not be accomplished.

CASE IX.

X. Y. Z., a gentleman of spare habit, applied to me in December with an impermeable stricture, situated five inches and three quarters from the orifice. His urine flowed by drops, dribbling sometimes away from him involuntarily; and he was obliged to rise once or twice every hour during the night to void it. He had several times suffered from complete retention: but the history of the case will be best learned from his own words.

My dear Sir,

As I consider it to amount almost to a duty, both as regards yourself, as well as those who are labouring under the painful malady of stricture, to state the relief I have derived from your novel

treatment of it, I shall be excused for making a few remarks on the subject. I date the origin of my stricture to a neglected gonorrhœa, contracted almost nineteen years ago, when the first symptoms of any inflammation in the prostate gland appeared; which having subsided by the application of leeches and poultices of linseed, I soon began a course of bougies. As soon as partial relief was obtained from a use of the bougie, it was discarded, and at the end of a twelvemonth again resumed for a few weeks. About twelve years ago a second gonorrhœa was unfortunately contracted, and was equally disregarded as the other, or a continental tour, just commenced, must have been given up. The usual consequences ensued. On my return to England I sought some of the best advice in London; and from that time (the autumn of 1817) to the present, I have periodically undergone a

course of bougies with no less than ten different surgeons of eminence ; some of whom only effected a passage of five or six inches with the bougie, whilst others intimated the existence of a false passage, and desisted. Whenever I caught the least cold, or indulged in any iced wines, I was certain of having an irritation at the neck of the bladder ; which at last began to alarm me so much, from three or four suppressions of urine that followed, that I felt delighted to hear of any probable means of an effectual cure. Such did your book, when I had perused it, hold out to me. I may safely say, then, that had I not applied to you, and first had ocular proof of the success attending your instrument at one of the London Hospitals, I feel confident my stricture, by means of the *common bougie*, would never have been overcome. The length of it appeared to be upwards of

two inches ; which, from memorandums I have made, I find you actually cut through between the 18th December and the 5th of February, by means of a dozen incisions, which, though they twice occasioned considerable rigor a short time after the operation, really produced but trifling pain in the actual puncture. On February 12th, a sound, No. 8, was passed into the bladder. I should add, that so immediately adjoining the prostate gland was the situation of my stricture, that the utmost caution was necessary, and was invariably your guide, during the whole of your skilful, anxious, and very feeling treatment, which I shall not very readily forget.

X. Y. Z.

I have only to add to this account, that I operated with the single-lancetted stilette, consequently without a director ;—

that I used the instrument twelve times, and must have divided more than two inches ;—that I was guided by feeling the point of the instrument with my finger *per anum*, and by my patient's feelings ; who was so satisfied that I was in the canal, that he insisted on my continuing the division ; particularly as no bleeding of any consequence, pain, or bad symptom, followed. A No. 10 catheter can now be passed, and he makes water freely, having lost all unpleasant symptoms, and being able to retain his urine in his bladder for eight or ten hours together.

MARCH 13, 1829.

CASE X.

MARCH 1829.—M. S.—This young man was sent by a medical friend, having two strictures,—one permeable, situated three inches and a half from the orifice, and the other impermeable, about six. He made water by drops, and was frequently subject to attacks of retention of urine. I divided the first stricture through its whole extent, which was about half an inch, and then ordered the usual treatment. In about a week afterwards the first stricture was nearly well, and I was able to pass a wire partially through the other. As far as the wire went I divided, which was about one-third of an inch. Immediately after the operation he made water in a good-sized stream, and at once expressed relief. In three days afterwards,

however, he came to me with retention of urine, which could arise from nothing but spasm, as I passed a No. 3 catheter with ease. This I left in the bladder; but as the urine flowed plentifully on the side of it, I withdrew it. On the following day a much larger-sized catheter was passed; but as there was a great deal of spasm and irritation, I advised him to leave the urethra quiet for the present. He makes water in a natural-sized stream, which he has been unable to do for two or three years before.

CASE XI.

MR. C., a barrister, ætat. thirty-seven, consulted me in January last, under the following circumstances. He has been the subject of strictures in the urethra about eighteen years ; and, for the last three years of this time he has periodically undergone a course of bougies. Whenever he leaves off their use, however, (although he has introduced as large a size as No. 13) the contraction returns, and he is obliged to go through the same process as before. He is likewise constantly liable to a profuse discharge from the urethra ; and at this present time (January) he has symptoms, without being able to account for them, resembling gonorrhœa. On this latter account, therefore, and on account of the contraction always returning, - I recom-

mended him to leave off the use of bougies altogether, to attend to the present state of the urethra, and to have the contraction divided with the lancetted stilette, if it returned again.

March 22d.—The discharge having completely ceased, from the employment of the usual remedies, I examined the state of the urethra, with the view of operating, if necessary. There were two strictures, one within three inches of the orifice, and the other immediately behind the bulb. The first stricture was so slight as hardly to be perceived ; whilst that behind the bulb was contracted to so great a degree, that it was with the greatest difficulty I could pass the smallest-sized gum-elastic catheter through it. I at length succeeded, however, and operated over the wire. The operation itself did not occupy a minute ; and only seven drops of blood,

besides that which was on the instrument, followed the incision. The contraction extended about half an inch; and the pain was so trifling from the cutting, that the patient himself was astonished that he had felt so little. A No. 12 gum-elastic catheter was passed into the bladder, and left there, and a fomentation was ordered. At ten in the same evening I saw him again, and he had not suffered the slightest pain from the presence of the catheter, feeling quite well. His pulse was slightly accelerated, being eighty-six, and the skin rather hot. He was ordered Pulv. Jacobi gr. v., and to continue fomenting.

March 23d.—Upon seeing him this morning, I found he had passed a comfortable night, and that he had felt no inconvenience from the catheter remaining in the urethra.—Pulse seventy-eight, and skin moist.—Ordered an ape-

rient. The urine had passed on the side of the catheter. At the period of this sheet going to the press he was going on so favourably that I had little doubt of its terminating quite successfully.

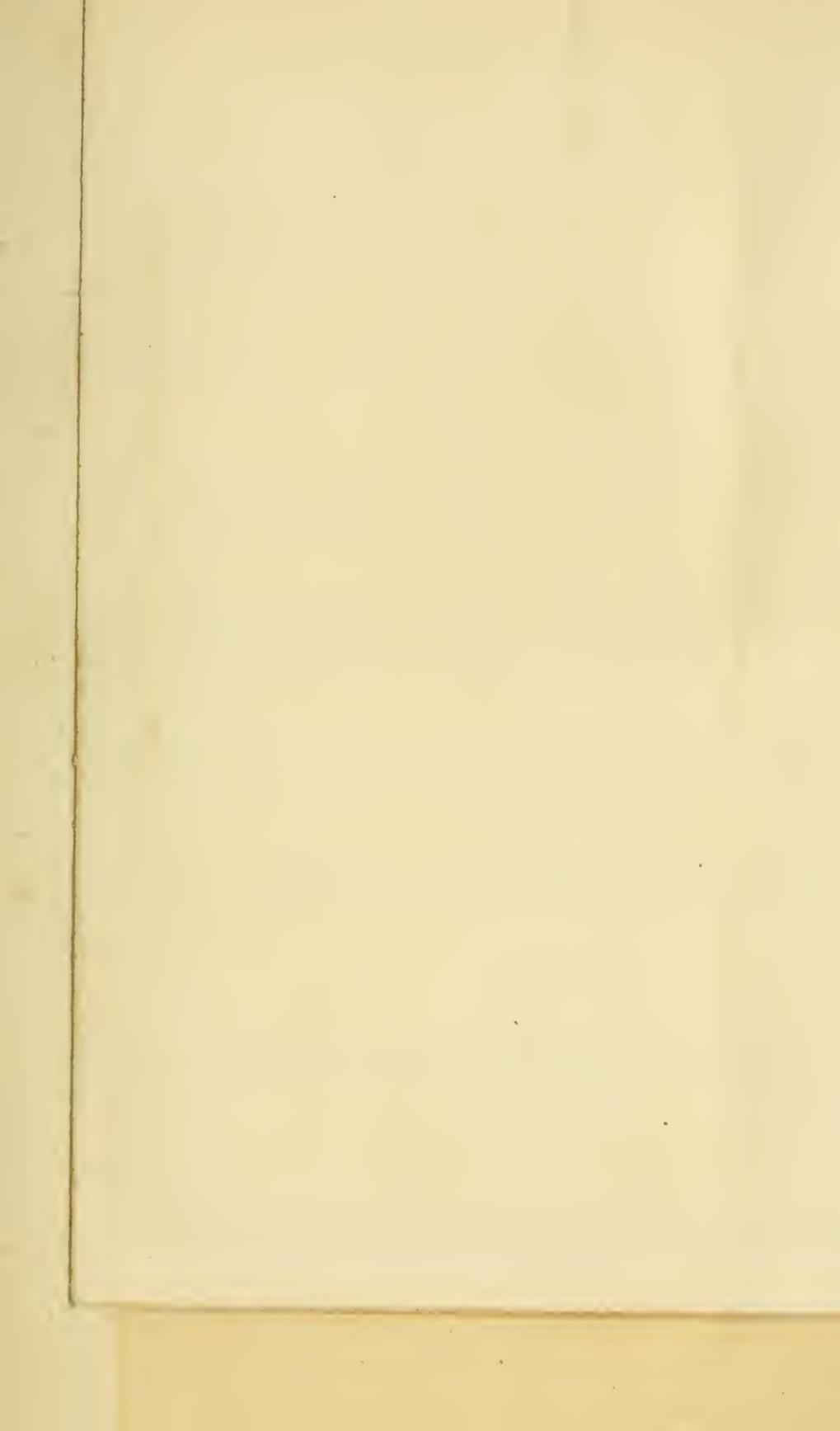




Fig. 2.

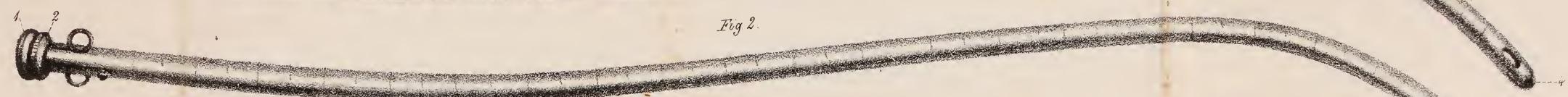


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

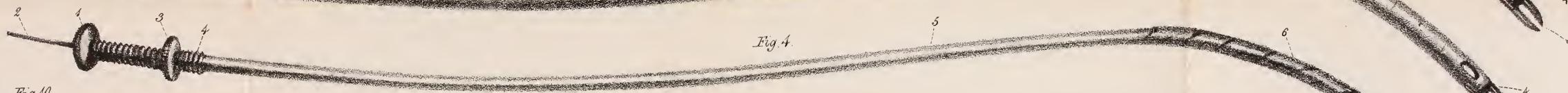


Fig. 10.

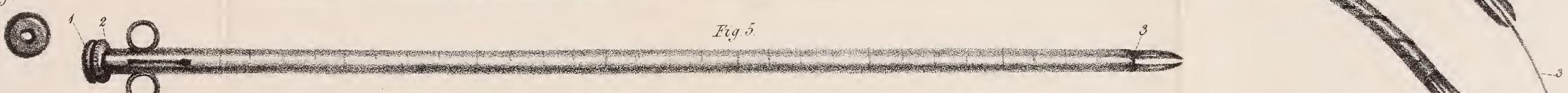


Fig. 11.



Fig. 6.

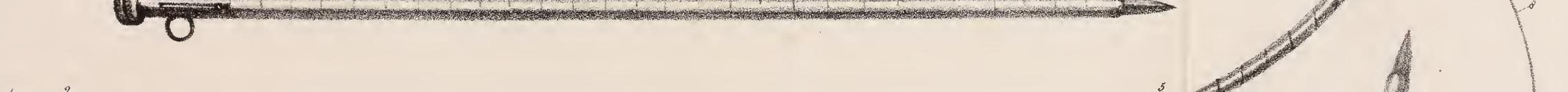


Fig. 7.

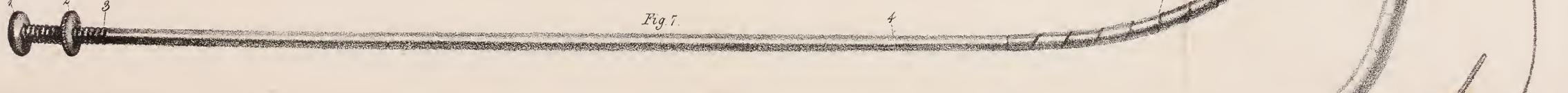
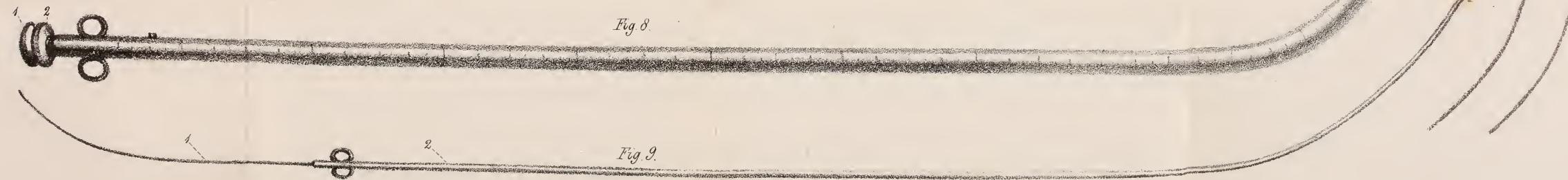


Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

FIGURE 1. The Instrument, as commonly seen.

No. 1. Thumb-piece of the Stilette.

2. Screw of the Stilette.

3. The regulating screw.

4. Hole for the wire to pass through.

Figure 2. As seen with the lancets projecting.

No. 1. Thumb-piece of the Stilette.

2. Regulating screw.

3. Lancets projecting.

4. Hole for the wire.

Figure 3. As seen with the Instrument passed over
the wire, and the lancets projecting.

No. 1 & 2. Thumb-piece and regulator.

3—3. The wire as seen passed through the hole
at the thumb-piece and at the extremity.

4. The lancets projecting on each side of the wire.

Figure 4. The Stilette, with the wire passed
through.

No. 1. The thumb-piece.

3 & 4. The screw and regulator.

5. Straight part of the Stilette.

6. Spiral tube to bend to curve.

7. The lancets.

8—8. The wire.

Figure 5. A straight Instrument of a similar
description.

No. 1. Thumb-piece.

2. Regulating screw.

3. Lancets projecting.

Figure 6. A straight Instrument of a similar description, with a single lancet.

No. 1. Thumb-piece.

2. Regulating screw.

3. The lancet projecting.

Figure 7. The Stilette of the Single-lancetted Catheter.

No. 1. Thumb-piece.

2 & 3. Screw and regulator.

4. Straight part of the Stilette.

5. Spiral tube to bend to curve.

6. The lancet.

Figure 8. The Single-lancetted Catheter.

No. 1 & 2. Thumb-piece and regulator.

3. The lancet projecting.

Figure 9. Smallest-sized Catheter, with a wire passed through.—The use of this instrument is, to introduce the wire (which serves as a guide to the Double-lancetted Catheter) into the bladder. When introduced, the wire is pushed, and the Catheter (which is open at its point) withdrawn, by which the wire is left in the canal of the urethra.

Figure 10. The hole in the thumb-piece through which the wire passes.

Figure 11. The hole at the extremity of the Catheter through which the wire passes.

* * * The Maker of these Instruments was Mr. Fergusson, Giltpur-Street, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE END.

APPENDIX
TO THE
SECOND EDITION
OF A SERIES OF
OBSERVATIONS ON STRICTURES,
&c. &c.
BY
R. A. STAFFORD.

B

APPENDIX

TO THE
SECOND EDITION.

IN consequence of the very favourable notice that has been taken of my work on **STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA**, by the Medical Reviews, and the continued success of the treatment of the disease by the Lancetted Stilettes, I am induced to publish the following Cases in the shape of an Appendix to the Second Edition ; and it gives me great pleasure to be enabled to inform the Profession that I have myself now operated on upwards of forty cases of Permanent Stricture, of the worst description, without a single failure. In no instance has there been a false passage made, nor has the cutting through the contracted part

either caused pain, hæmorrhage, inflammation, or any other unfavourable symptom : the hardened structure which composed the stricture has always been absorbed ; and I have never as yet heard of a return of the complaint after this treatment. In addition to the unvaried success in the use of these instruments in Stricture, I have on two different occasions divided through an enlarged third lobe of the prostate gland, which in the one had caused total, and in the other, partial retention of urine. In both of these cases the disease subsided, and the patients recovered the complete power of the bladder.

It cannot but be gratifying to the profession to know that although the employment of these instruments is not necessary in every case of stricture, yet when such cases do occur, and there appears to be but little hope left to the patient from any other

remedy, he may be relieved, not merely without danger, but with very *trifling* inconvenience. I say *trifling* inconvenience, because I have not always found it necessary, as I formerly recommended, to confine my patients, to apply leeches, or to leave the catheter after the operation in the urethra. They have, on the following day, usually gone about their occupations, and it has been only necessary to pass a bougie daily for a short time, and afterwards three times a-week, until the cure has been completed.

CASE I.

APRIL 12, 1829.—A nobleman, about forty years of age, applied to me under the following circumstances :—He had two strictures—one just within the orifice of the urethra, and the other in the membranous portion. The first was about half an inch in length: the part, when felt externally, was hardened, and instead of the lips of the orifice of the urethra being in close contact, as is natural, they gaped, forming a sort of conical opening, until they arrived at the contraction. This stricture would admit through it, but with considerable stretching and pain, a No. 8 or 9 bougie, but on its withdrawal it closed up again. The stricture at the membranous portion also would allow the same sized bougie to be passed, but as soon as it was removed

the part also collapsed. This state of canal had existed for many years, and had been a constant source of annoyance to the patient, causing extreme irritation, and a frequent desire to make water. Bougies had been passed at various times, but never with any sensible effect or relief. Under these circumstances, therefore, I advised that the stricture just within the orifice should be divided, and that the one at the membranous portion should undergo the like treatment, if necessary. Having gained the consent of my patient, I accordingly operated on it. A No. 13 bougie was left in the anterior part of the urethra for a few hours, to keep it open, and afterwards a steel one passed daily. No inflammation of any consequence occurred, and in a fortnight or three weeks the divided surfaces were quite healed, and the lips of the orifice of the urethra returned to their natural form.

CASE II.

APRIL 14, 1829.—Mr. K. aged 66, had suffered from a permanent stricture, situated at the membranous portion of the urethra, thirty-three years, and it was of that hardened elastic character, that although bougies of every description had been constantly passed, yet to whatever size it might be dilated, it always returned. When I first saw him it would admit through it a No. 3 bougie, and as he informed me it would be of little use to attempt to cure it by dilatation, I divided it at once with a No. 12 Lancetted Stilette, leaving an elastic catheter in the bladder for twelve hours. The operation caused but little pain, and no bleeding. A steel bougie was passed daily for a fortnight or three weeks, and when a No. 16 could be introduced through it without difficulty, I discharged him from my hands, cured.

CASE III.

MAY, 1829.—Capt. B. between 60 and 70 years of age, had an indurated contraction of the urethra, which could be felt externally, at the distance of one inch from the orifice. This had caused him great inconvenience, for he was obliged, in consequence of a diseased prostate gland, to pass a catheter into the bladder three or four times a day, and he found some trouble in getting by this obstruction. The part was enlarged by the Lancetted Stilette to its natural size, and in less than a fortnight it was quite healed.

CASE IV.

AUGUST 2, 1829.—Mr. O. consulted me, having had, until latterly, bougies passed for a stricture situated at the membranous portion for nearly two years, without the slightest benefit. He had left off the use of them, however, about three months previous to his applying to me. He wished to have it divided by the Lancetted Stilette ; I accordingly operated upon him over the wire, and by two incisions, which caused but slight pain and little bleeding, I severed the stricture completely through : a No. 10 catheter was left in the bladder for six hours, and then withdrawn. On the following day I passed a steel bougie of the same size, and repeated it daily for a week, until a No. 12 could be introduced with ease. In less than a month from the operation he was quite cured, and the stricture (for I have often heard from him since) has never returned.

CASE V.

ST. MARYLEBONE INFIRMARY.

ISAAC HINCKLEY, aged 50, of a spare habit and sallow complexion, says that he has had a stricture for ten years, and at that period he underwent a course of bougies with partial relief. About two years from the present time the obstruction returned, and he applied to a surgeon, who found it was impermeable by a bougie. Since then he has become so much emaciated, and reduced in bodily strength, that he has been obliged to give up labour. The stricture is situated seven inches from the orifice.

July 24th.—It was punctured with the

single stilette, and about one-fourth of an inch of it was cut through : a dessert-spoonful of blood followed the incisions. No further attempt was made for the present.

25th.—A bougie was passed, and the divided part remained open ; he had suffered no pain. I ordered an aperient draught, and to foment.

26th.—He felt a little stiffness in the groin, and slight pain while the urine passed ; the stream was about the same. Eight leeches were applied.

28th.—A No. 4 catheter was passed with ease into the bladder, and left there.

29th.—No. 4 catheter was withdrawn, and one of elastic gum (No. 10) was introduced instead of it. He could make water freely, and had suffered no pain.

From this time the size of the catheter was increased until it arrived at No. 13.

On the 7th of August he felt himself so well that he requested to be discharged, and to attend as an out-patient.

CASE VI.*

W^M. TREVILIAN, 40 years of age, many years at sea, great part of the time in warm climates, has had stricture in the urethra at least fifteen years to the best of his recollection ; thinks he had gonorrhœa once, but never made use of injections. He applied to me on the 22d of February last, at which time he was able only to make

* I was favoured with an account of this case by Mr. Armstrong, of Kennington.

water by drops with great straining and pain ; the symptoms have been gradually becoming more severe for the last two years, and at times a total suppression of urine has taken place, which has given him great alarm and anxiety. Had never applied to any surgeon before, nor had any attempt been made to pass any instrument ; general health much impaired, and low in spirits ; says he has not slept two hours together for the last two years, from the frequent inclination to make water, which obliges him to rise from bed to relieve himself.

I passed a No. 6 bougie, with considerable difficulty and pain, six inches and a quarter down ; several drops of blood followed the removal of the instrument : there appeared to be a considerable degree of irritability throughout the canal. He was ordered to foment frequently, and to rub

in a little of the ung. hyd. f. every night into the perineum ; the bowels to be kept open, and to observe a strict antiphlogistic regimen ; barley water for common drink.

August 4th.—Since February he has been seen by me once or twice a-week, but having a wife and family, with an aged mother, depending upon him for support, he has been obliged to attend his business in town until to-day : from his master having become a bankrupt he is now determined to confine himself and have something done. His general health is much improved ; catheters and bougies of various sizes have been used, but the passage is still impervious farther than six inches and a half. Leeches have been applied to the perineum occasionally, and fomentations, attending to the state of the bowels, adhering strictly to the antiphlogistic plan of treatment. He can now make water with

less strangury, in a moderate tortuous stream, and can retain it comfortably five or six hours. I explained to him Mr. Stafford's new instrument and the benefit he was likely to receive from its use ; he readily agreed to it, and having ascertained the exact situation of the stricture, six inches and a half, the single Lancetted Stilette was passed down to it, and the lancet thrust forward and then withdrawn : about a teaspoonful of blood followed ; a bougie was now passed easily six inches and three-quarters, having gained a full quarter of an inch. He was ordered to keep his bed, to apply six leeches, use fomentations, and take a purgative.

5th.—Passed a No. 9 bougie seven inches, but the stricture still impervious farther to the smallest instrument : the stream of water much the same.

28th.—Having passed a bougie every second or third day, I can now introduce a No. 10 full seven inches. This day Mr. Stafford's instrument was again introduced, and with two cuts of the lancet I found I had gained nearly half-an-inch ; little haemorrhage, and very little pain. He was ordered to go to bed, apply six leeches, and foment.

29th.—Had a good night's rest ; pulse natural, bowels open, no medicine ; makes water without straining ; the stream, however, does not appear improved.

30th.—Passed a bougie to-day nearly seven inches and a half : the resistance to the instrument feels as hard as before, and impervious to any instrument.

As I had now gained upwards of an inch, and still unable to pass any instrument

farther, I was determined to call in the assistance of Mr. Stafford, and on the 3d of September I went with my patient to that gentleman's house. He found, on examination, the stricture nearly as above described, permeable nearly seven inches and a half from the meatus urinar. exter. He passed the armed stilette, and with two cuts divided half an inch, as he afterwards passed a silver catheter eight inches ; slight hæmorrhage followed. Twelve leeches were ordered to the perineum, fomentations, and a brisk cathartic to be given, and to keep his bed.

4th.—Passed a good night, free from any unpleasant symptom : bowels open, pulse natural.

5th.—Passed a catheter with very little pain or resistance eight inches : no improvement in his stream of water.

11th.—Mr. Stafford used the Lancetted Stilette again to-day; about a table-spoonful of blood followed the incisions: still impervious and very irritable. Leeches, fomentations, and aperients to be continued.

14th.—This day on using a No. 1 catheter, with very slight pressure, I was gratified to find it pass into the bladder, where it remained for some time without giving the least pain. To continue fomenting frequently, and to take aperients occasionally.

17th.—He now makes water in a better stream. On using a silver catheter to-day, I found considerable resistance from spasm. Twelve leeches to be applied to the perineum; fomentations, &c. to be continued.

21st.—Considerable spasm still. Twelve leeches to be applied, and fomentations frequently.

23d.—The leeches to be again applied, and to take 30 drops of the balsam. co-paibæ in a mixture with the p. g. traj. c. ter in die.

25th.—Urethra still irritable, with slight ardor urinæ. Cont. med.

27th.—Passed a No. 1 catheter into the bladder this morning, where it was secured and ordered to remain as long as it gave no pain : bowels open ; no medicine given.

28th.—The catheter was removed this morning, after which he made water in a clear good-sized stream.

In about a week from this time the wire was passed through the stricture, and it was enlarged with the double Lancetted Stilette to the natural size of the urethra. Bougies were passed for a fortnight longer, when the patient was discharged cured.

CASE VII.

SEPT. 22, 1829.—Patrick Shannon, aged 38, was admitted into St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary with retention of urine, which he had laboured under for twelve hours. When all the means usually employed in that disease had been resorted to, and when twenty-six hours had elapsed, it occurred to me to try the following plan for his relief, and it was attended with complete success. I introduced into the urethra, as far as I could, to the distance of nearly three inches, a tube with a circular eminence upon it about an inch from its extremity, attached to a syringe; I then passed a ligature round the penis, and tied it firmly in, by which means I was enabled to exhaust the small quantity of air which

was in the anterior part of the urethra. The patient was then desired to attempt to make water; in about half a minute a tea spoonful of urine oozed through the stricture, which was four inches from the orifice; in another minute there was collected in the syringe a dessert spoonful; in the next attempt the syringe was completely full; and in this manner nearly two pints of urine were drawn from the bladder. I mention this fact more particularly, as it appears to me that this method might be pursued as an auxiliary to the means usually resorted to in cases of retention of urine from stricture. On the following day I introduced the single stilette, and perforated the obstruction; I could not, however, pass a bougie completely into the bladder, as another stricture was present in the membranous part of the urethra: he was ordered to apply leeches, fomentations, &c. In four or five days he began to make

water in a tolerably sized stream. Bougies were now passed for him about twice a week ; but as he suffered greatly from their introduction, and as the stream of urine improved in size, so much as to be nearly as large as natural, I discontinued their use. I have seen him a few times since this period ; he always tells me that he continues well, and makes water as freely as ever he did in his life. He has become quite fat, and is enabled to follow his business.

CASE VIII.

MR. S.,* aged 76, about 12 years ago lost more than half his penis from mortification ;

* This patient informed me that Mr. Thomas, the President of the College of Surgeons, sent him to me. I cannot help feeling gratified at the good opinion and liberal conduct of a gentleman of such high professional character.

in consequence of which, when the part healed, the orifice of the urethra became nearly closed, and could not admit a bougie so large as a crow quill : the part when felt externally was extremely hard, and any attempt to dilate it was impracticable ; caustic had been applied, but with no effect. From the long continuance of the disease it had also given rise to a stricture in the membranous portion ; indeed the whole urethra was so affected by it that it was impossible to pass a bougie into the bladder. The contracted part was freely divided, and a bougie was left in the orifice for a few hours ; no unfavourable symptom occurred, and in less than a fortnight a No. 13 bougie could be passed into the bladder with the greatest ease. In a month from the operation all the inflammation and irritability of the urethra subsided, and he could make water with perfect freedom, and in a full stream.

CASE IX.

A COURIER, who had been in the constant habit of riding, had so bruised his perineum against the pommel of the saddle, that from two to three inches of his urethra had become irregularly thickened and impermeable to the passage of the bougie. I introduced the lancetted stilette down to the part, and from time to time divided portions of it, until I completely perforated it; I then passed both silver and steel bougies through it, until the hardened substance of which it was composed was absorbed. In six weeks he was quite free from stricture, and could make water naturally.

CASE X.

JULY 1830.—Mr. ———, ætat. 64, has had a diseased state of the urethra for many years, of which he gives the following account. He says,

“ I remember that from an early period of my life I voided urine slowly, so much so as to be laughed at by other boys. In my youth I was not very severely handled in the wars of Venus, although I did not escape without some little complaints ; but I could never discover that the treatment of them materially affected my power of discharging urine. As I grew towards fifty my difficulty in that respect assumed a more serious appearance. Mr. H. examined the neck of my bladder, and by his

advice I passed bougies from time to time, occasionally increasing the size : but through negligence I pursued this course so imperfectly that the malady gained ground, and at length, in 1825, as well as I recollect, I was brought to a total suppression. Sir Astley Cooper was called in, and with his usual courage, vigour, and skill, introduced a catheter into my bladder, which discharged the unusual quantity of two quarts and half a pint. After this I became more regular in the use of the bougie and the catheter, but the stricture returned, and gained ground so much that the fluid, when I had attempted to void it naturally, was repelled, and formed a painful and dangerous swelling in the region about the scrotum. Sir Astley Cooper then found it necessary to make an incision near the scrotum, which still continues open. He also recommended the use of catheters and dilators of increasing size,

with great frequency, and he admonished me that a premature stopping of the opening he had made might, if my other symptoms returned, endanger my life. I persevered, and could pass Weiss's silver catheter No. 13, but the perpetual irritation occasioned by this course impaired my health, and brought on the ague. At this period Sir Astley Cooper retired for a time from public life, and I lost in him not only a skilful, but a warm and liberal friend. I then applied to Mr. ——, who attended me some time, and did me much good : he relaxed the system recommended by Sir Astley Cooper, and by care and management reduced several swellings which had grown of late, and enabled me with a moderate sized catheter to perform my evacuations very well : he was then desirous to heal up the wound, but as it did not yield to easy applications, he would not advise me, feverish as I was, to try the ex-

periment of creating a sore in the opening, in order that it might be the means of healing it. He left me, when he had done me much good. Still my health continued to grow worse ; the perpetual irritation of the catheter, the necessity of lighting a taper several times in every night (for I cannot sleep with a light in my bed-room) kept me in continual fever, and frequent fits of ague attended it."

When I first saw this gentleman he was under the necessity of drawing off his urine with a catheter No. 8, five or six times in the twenty-fours, and he had so lost the power of his bladder that he could not void more than one or two table spoonsful at a time, and this in so small a stream that it was not larger than a thread. The urine was excessively fœtid, and always deposited a mucous sediment. The urethra was free as far as three inches and a half down

the canal, but when the catheter arrived at this point it required considerable force to make it pass on, and the rest of the passage was more or less diseased down to the prostate gland. There was a fistulous passage connected with the urethra, opening itself in the back part of the scrotum. The indurated contraction, three inches and a half down the urethra, was first divided, and at different times during the period of six weeks, the rest of the canal wherever an obstruction occurred was cut through, until a No. 12 could be passed with ease. At this time I discovered that the bladder could expel only one-third of its contents. In conjunction with Sir Charles Scudamore and Mr. Hayes, who were also in attendance upon him, I advised him to continue the use of the catheter night and morning, and in less than six weeks more the bladder completely regained its power. During the whole treatment he was never confined

to the house, and he followed his customary occupations. His present state of health will be best described in his own words :

“ I am now,” he says, “ enabled to void urine without a catheter, in a thin, but vigorous, and continuous stream ; I pass a catheter now and then, to assure myself that the passage is quite free, and I am satisfied that it is so, for two or three days ago I introduced the catheter immediately after I had made water naturally, and the residue which was discharged was less than a table-spoonful.”—*18th May, 1830.*

He has lost the disposition to ague, and is much improved in his general health ; the fistulous passage remains open, but no urine passes through it as formerly.

CASE XI.

A DISTINGUISHED General Officer, rather more than sixty years of age, and of a shattered constitution, from hard service in India, the Peninsula, and other countries, placed himself under my care with a diseased urethra, which he had dreadfully suffered from for more than thirty years. The canal was irregularly thickened and contracted to four inches in extent, which began exactly four inches distant from the orifice, and terminated at the prostate gland. He had frequently undergone courses of bougies, and the application of caustic, without any beneficial result ; at length ulceration took place in the urethra, the urine was extravasated, and a fistulous passage ensued in the perineum. In course

of time this healed up, since which the passage gradually got worse, until it would not admit any thing larger than a No. 3 bougie, which, for the last six months, he has always been obliged to pass into the bladder before he could make water, and if he did not succeed in that operation he invariably suffered from retention of urine. His bladder, also, had partly lost its power, expelling only about half its contents. The urine was always extremely fœtid and of a turgid dark colour, and there was very frequently deposited a considerable quantity of sediment at the bottom of the chamber-pot of a tenacious thick mucus, such as is secreted in diseases of the prostate gland.

Having given up all hope of deriving any benefit from the common mode of treatment, he made up his mind to have the diseased structure gradually divided by the Stilette. This I accomplished by

four different operations, from time to time, and during the whole treatment no unfavourable symptom occurred. At length I was enabled to introduce a No. 12 flexible catheter into the bladder, which I left there a few days. After this time I discharged my patient, allowing him to pass bougies for himself twice a-week until the cure was completed. I have since heard from him by letter, in which he states—

“ I can now decidedly say from experience that your operation has succeeded to my fullest expectation. I have never any difficulty in making water, and I have invariably passed the bougie you desired me (No. 13) without stoppage, pain, or difficulty, every fourth day, and I can even pass a large No. 14.”

He can now expel the whole contents of his bladder: the urine is never foetid, and the prostatic secretion has entirely disappeared.

CASE XII.

MR. C., aged 40, had been for many years afflicted with stricture, and he had been constantly under the care of different practitioners with but little benefit. The obstruction was in the membranous portion of the urethra, and would admit a No. 5 or 6 bougie through it; the part had been frequently dilated to a No. 12 or 13 bougie, but as soon as they were left off the contraction returned, causing a great irritation in the urethra, and a constant desire to make water. Under these circumstances he was determined to have it divided with the Lancetted Stilette. As the calibre of his urethra was naturally very large, I operated with an instrument the size of a No. 13 bougie: it caused no pain and very little bleeding. After this bougies were passed twice a week, until the size arrived at 18; and in a few weeks he was perfectly cured.

CASE XIII.

A SURGEON, æt. 60, residing in Wales, and who had been obliged to retire from practice in 1810, on account of the distressing symptoms occasioned from strictures in the urethra, gives the following history of his case:—In the early part of his life he had been frequently the subject of gonorrhœa, which from his extensive practice, and the necessity of being constantly on horseback, he had no opportunity to attend to. Strictures arose in consequence, and these at length became so bad, and produced so much pain and irritation in the urethra and bladder, that he was forced to leave off business. He then placed himself under the care of Mr. Macilwain, who for the time relieved him. The disease, however, and the symptoms

attending it, returned with such increased violence, that he became in a state of the greatest misery. At this time he suffered from a constant and extreme itching in the urethra, and the bladder was so irritable that he was obliged to rise from his bed every half-hour to make water, so that he got no sleep. His health began to suffer materially, and at length, therefore, he made up his mind to go to London, and accordingly he wrote to me on the subject. As it was impossible to tell the precise state of the disease without examining him, I advised him to come. He immediately set off, and on his arrival, instead of coming to me, he went to Mr. Macilwain. This gentleman, in conjunction with Mr. Stanley, examined his urethra, and as they could pass a large-sized instrument into the bladder, they considered he had no stricture. Mr. M. informs me that he requested him to see me, but he

went back on the following day into the country without doing so. In about a fortnight from his return he wrote to me again, stating what he had done, and that he was no better. He wished to know whether I would advise him to return to town, but in my answer to him I declined, after the able opinions he had taken, giving mine on the subject ; at the same time, however, I said, that if he made up his mind to do so, I should have much pleasure in attending him. He came ; and when I examined him I found that the orifice of the urethra was contracted, and that it felt hard externally. I introduced a No. 10 catheter, which, after making steady and firm pressure, went through the contracted part. At about four inches from the orifice I found the same resistance, which by the same means was overcome. I withdrew the instrument, not allowing the urine contained in the blad-

der to escape through it. I then desired him to make water in my presence, and discovered that the stream was not larger than a pack-thread : I therefore drew this conclusion ;—that although the narrowed parts of the urethra would admit through them a large catheter, yet that they, as I have known them to do in many other instances, immediately collapsed upon the withdrawal of the instrument. In this opinion he himself concurred, and as he had twice come on purpose from so great a distance, nearly 300 miles, and as his sufferings were so great, without the hope of obtaining relief from any other treatment, I advised him to have the narrowed parts freely divided. To this he immediately consented, and I at once operated on the orifice. On the following day I found that the extreme itching of the urethra had entirely subsided, and that even he had not occasion to make water so frequently.

In a week from this time the other contraction was cut through, without much pain or bleeding ; and he says himself, “ although the operation appeared formidable, yet I felt not the least fear, and I was truly surprised to experience so little pain, and the loss of blood was hardly worth naming.” He now began to find the irritation of the bladder subside, and that he could retain his urine for three or four hours together. He still, however, felt uncomfortable sensations at the neck of the bladder, which led me to suspect that the organ was partially paralysed, and did not expel the whole of its contents. This I found to be the case, for, after having voided all the urine he could, I passed a catheter, and found about a quarter of a pint left behind. As there was now no impediment in the urethra, I advised him to pass a catheter night and morning, to completely empty the blad-

der. He returned to the country, and I have since heard from him several times, and he remains much in the same state as when he left London, and to use his own words, "I can now say, my nights are passed in comfort, not being, perhaps, under the necessity of getting up once in two or three hours, and I experience not the least pain before or after, and my days are passed still more comfortably." He cannot, however, completely empty the bladder without the occasional use of the catheter, which he passes with ease.

As this gentleman was, before he came to me, under the care of Mr. Macilwain, and as Mr. M. alludes to him in his work, by saying, "In a urethra admitting already so large an instrument, it is not very clear what Mr. Stafford divided," I feel it incumbent on me to make a few remarks on the case. As I before stated,

I found the orifice of the urethra contracted, but that by steady and firm pressure I could pass through it a No. 10 catheter: the same instrument also could be passed by the same means through the contraction four inches down the canal. When, however, the catheter got beyond these parts, it was tightly grasped by them, and its withdrawal was attended by difficulty, so much so, that when its point was drawn out of the contractions it gave the same kind of sensation as the drawing a cork out of a bottle—that is to say, it was so embraced or girthed round by them that a jerk was given to the hand. From this circumstance I was led to suspect that the contractions immediately collapsed on the withdrawal of the catheter, and when I saw the stream of urine was not larger than a packthread, I felt convinced of it, and therefore recommended the division of the parts. The relief ob-

tained from the operation is a clear proof that my conjecture was correct, and the gentleman himself being a surgeon, it is not likely that he could have been deceived. I do not, however, deny that the bladder had partially lost its power, most probably owing to an enlargement of the third lobe of the prostate gland, and that it was necessary occasionally to use a catheter, to empty the residue of urine after making water. The patient, however, can now retain his urine for three hours or more together, which before he could not do for half an hour, and all the distressing symptoms he complained of have vanished.

It may be observed that this is not the only case among those I have now published where the stricture collapsed after the withdrawal of the catheter. The same occurrence took place in Case 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 18.

All these strictures were cured by division, and in some of them a catheter was before always obliged to be passed, in consequence of the paralysed state of the bladder.— Case 10 is a remarkable instance of this. Here the stream of urine was not larger than a thread, and yet by steady pressure the stricture would admit through it a No. 9 catheter, which instrument was always obliged to be passed, to empty the bladder. How is it possible to account for the smallness of the stream of urine in this instance, unless the calibre of the contracted part of the urethra became smaller? That this was the case is proved by the division of the part having given relief, and the patient having regained the lost power of his bladder. In case No. 1 the stricture was so near the orifice that the collapse of the part could actually be seen after the withdrawal of the bougie. All means had been tried to dilate it without effect, while dividing it

at once gave relief, and the patient was well in a fortnight. It appears to me that in many cases of old stricture the structure of the diseased part becomes so rigid that the mere passing bougies through it has no power over it, either in dilating it or producing absorption, and that as soon as they are withdrawn it returns to a certain calibre, which is regulated according to the greater or less elasticity of the diseased structure. Hence it resembles an Indian-rubber girdle, surrounding a tube capable of expansion, which Indian-rubber girdle can be stretched equally with the tube to any given point, but which being of a different degree of elasticity returns to its former circumference, while the tube remains flexible, and thus is compressed by it.

CASE XIV.

CHEPSTOWE.—In July last I was requested to see Mr. L., a respectable farmer in this neighbourhood. I found he had a permanent stricture about one inch from the orifice of the urethra ; he had suffered some years from it, and had been in the habit of occasionally passing a bougie with relief : but at this time his urine would only pass guttatum ; and he was in great pain. Having read Mr. Stafford's book, and being in possession of the instrument marked fig. 6, in the plate, I determined upon the operation. But being apprehensive that he might have spasmodic stricture lower down the urethra, I deferred using it till the following day ; and in the meantime applied leeches and fomentations, and, in fact, followed in every respect the plan recommended by Mr. Stafford. On the following morning the armed stilette was

passed to the stricture ; and it was divided without any difficulty, with very little pain, and slight hæmorrhage. A silver catheter was then introduced, and passed without any difficulty into the bladder, where it was allowed to remain. A draught with hyoscyamus was given him ; and he was ordered to take an aperient on the following morning. He passed a restless night, and complains of the catheter, which was withdrawn, and leeches and fomentations were applied to the perineum. In the afternoon the catheter was again introduced without difficulty into the bladder. The painful symptoms gradually subsided ; and after a few days a catheter, No. 10, was passed into the bladder twice a week. I saw this patient this morning, (March 29, 1830) : he tells me he is quite cured, and passes his urine as well as he ever remembers to have done at any period of his life.

JOHN EVANS,

LATE ASSISTANT-SURGEON TO THE 16TH LANCERS.

CASE XV.

MR. H., a gentleman between forty and fifty years of age, has been tormented by the necessity of constantly passing a bougie for an old stricture, which he has suffered from for about twenty years. The stricture is four inches down the canal, and of an indurated character. It is with great difficulty a bougie is made to pass it; and in about a week after its introduction the contraction closes up again, and the stream of urine is not larger than a packthread. Independently of this also, after each time of using it he is attacked by rigors, and his health is greatly impaired by it. Under these circumstances I recommended that the stricture should be divided, which was accomplished without difficulty. In three weeks from the operation a No. 12 catheter could be passed into the bladder without the slightest impediment, and the stream of urine was perfectly natural.

CASE XVI.

A MAN was admitted into St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, with extravasation of urine, and abscesses connected with the urethra, which arose in consequence of ulceration having taken place behind an impermeable stricture, situated an inch and a half from the orifice. The single Lancetted Stilette was introduced down to the obstruction, and it was at once divided : a large sized catheter was then left in the bladder. The fistulous passages connected with the urethra became healed, and the swelling of the parts around subsided. In about a month he was discharged from the Infirmary perfectly cured.

CASE XVII.

FEBRUARY 1830.—Mr. G. aged 40, had long suffered from stricture and the symptoms attendant upon that disease. He voided his urine in a very small stream ; there was great irritability and spasm at the neck of the bladder, and he was obliged to make water frequently. The stricture was seven inches from the orifice, and had been impermeable by a bougie, before he came to me, for two years. By good luck, however, I passed a wire through it, by which I was enabled to divide it at once. A large elastic catheter was left in the bladder for an hour or two. In two days he went about his occupations as usual ; and in three weeks he was perfectly cured.

CASE XVIII.

MARCH 1830.—The same nobleman who had consulted me before for a stricture in the orifice of the urethra, was so satisfied with the relief he had obtained from its division that he applied to me again to operate on the stricture in the membranous portion, as he had derived no benefit from the passage of bougies. According to his request I divided it over the wire, causing but little pain and trifling bleeding, and immediately afterwards passed a No. 11 catheter into the bladder with ease. A bougie was left in the urethra for a few hours, and was then withdrawn. No leeches to the perineum were required, and in other respects the usual treatment was pursued. In a month from the operation the urethra was so freely open that it would

have been impossible to have told where the stricture had been present.

BESIDES the Cases which I have now published, two others have occurred in my practice even worse than any that I have yet related, and they were attended by complete success. In one the contracted and diseased portion of the urethra extended almost three inches, and in the other nearly two inches, besides its being connected with false passages. In both I found it necessary to perforate the third or middle lobe of the prostate gland, on account of its enlargement; but as it is my intention at a future period to make some observations upon this latter disease, I shall for the present defer their publication.

